Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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CUC: Public hospital made only 2 payments for arrears. PAGE 5
Census: Average pay, number of jobs up in NMI in 2010. PAGE 6

FOR THE REST OF FISCAL YEAR 2012

72 hours could be restored soon

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's special adviser for management and budget Vicky Villagomez told senators yesterday afternoon that the administration has been considering the restoration of at least eight of the 16 hours that were cut from most government employees' work hours biweekly, to bring the work hours to 72 per payroll for the rest of fiscal year 2012.

» Senate follows House's move to cap FY 2013 budget at $114M

Fiscal year 2012 ends on Sept. 30, 2012.

The Fitial administration will be restoring the full 80 hours in fiscal year 2013, which runs from Oct. 1, 2012 to Sept. 30, 2013, part-

See 72 HOURS on Page 4

SEEKING RE-ELECTION

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP), third from right, shakes hands with Commonwealth Election Commission administrative specialist Kayla Igitol, left, during Sablan's filing of nomination petition and documents with the commission yesterday afternoon. Sablan is flanked by his wife Andrea, Juan S. Tenorio, right, relatives, and supporters. Sablan, the first and so far the CNMI's only nonvoting delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives, is seeking a third term and is likely headed for a two-way delegate race.

See story on Page 2

Exodus of nurses continues at CHC

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The exodus of nurses at the Commonwealth Health Center continues, with eight more resigning in just the past seven days.

» Eight more resign in a span of one week

Their resignations would take effect after three months or by October.

Sources told *Saipan Tribune* that these nurses quit mainly due to the uncertainty of their retirement contributions.

The eight are from key units at CHC. One is with the Medical Surgical Unit, while two are from the Intensive Care Unit. Another two are from the Emergency Room section and three are stationed at the Hemodialysis Section.

One of the eight told *Saipan Tribune* that, although she has no concrete plans yet whether to join the private sector or go back to the Philippines, the decision to resign was the only option left so she could get a refund on

See EXODUS on Page 4

RELATED NEWS

➤ CHC employee count down to over 450. PAGE 3

Saipan casino petition 'suspended'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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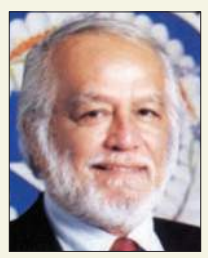
REPORTER



Torres

Despite the fanfare and spirited debate about legalizing casino gaming on Saipan for years, only a few hundreds signed a petition to place the question on the Nov. 6 ballot, prompting its lead proponents to "suspend" the whole petition yesterday.

Dr. John "Jack" Angello, one of the lead proponents of the Saipan casino petition, informed Attorney General Edward Buckingham yesterday of this suspension.

Yesterday was the last day of submission to the Office of the Attorney General of signatures in support of a proposed popular initiative.

"Due to unforeseen circumstances beyond our control and after conferring

See CASINO on Page 4

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OPINION METER
This week's poll:

Should the optional services being provided to Medicaid beneficiaries be eliminated?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

INSIDE

BUSINESS

Internet providers brace for calls from those with malware-infected computers. ➤ PAGE 13

FOCUS

Abdus Salam, Pakistan's only Nobel laureate, is no hero at home. ➤ PAGE 17

LIFE & STYLE

Katie Holmes wants to keep her divorce from Tom Cruise as private as possible. ➤ PAGE 21

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Local

Kilili files candidacy for 3rd term as NMI delegate

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

With his wife Andrea, parents, relatives, and dozens of supporters by his side, Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP) filed his nomination petition and documents with the Commonwealth Election Commission at 2:18pm yesterday, making his candidacy official.

Sablan is seeking a third term as the CNMI's first—and so far the only—nonvoting delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives. The elections will be held on Nov. 6.

"Today we are off and running. And although I am the candidate, this is not a race that I am taking alone. The people of the Northern Mariana Islands are in this race with me," he said, as he asked for people's support for his candidacy.

Sablan was the second individual to file his candidacy on the first day of filing nomination petitions yesterday.

The first to file yesterday was Ignacio V. Cabrera, an independent candidate for Precinct III, said Election Commission administrative specialist Kayla Igitol.

As of yesterday, Sablan's known opponent, Dr. Ignacia Demapan of the Republican Party of the CNMI Association, has yet to file her candidacy. Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, president of the local GOP, has been campaigning hard for Demapan and has been critical of Sablan's work.

In an interview, Sablan said he is the "underdog" in what could be a two-way race unless additional delegate candidates surface.

"The last time, they threw the kitchen sink at me," he said, referring to the Fitial camp's campaign tactics. "I think this time they're going to throw the bathtub at me. The people of the Northern Mariana Islands have given me their trust twice. The least I can do in return is to continue to trust in their judgment. And I believe they know who can represent their interests in Congress and do the work we all need to do to continue to progress forward, for a Northern Mariana Islands we can all be proud of," he told *Saipan Tribune.*

There were nine candidates in the first delegate race in 2008. In the 2010 race, there were four. The 2012 delegate race could have only two—Sablan and Demapan. Sablan said he submitted "way more than the 200 signatures needed" to support his candidacy.

In answering questions from reporters inside the jam-packed Election Commission office in Susupe, Sablan said he feels "welcome" and "humbled" by the show of support. Besides his family and relatives, the crowd included independents, Republicans, and Covenant Party members.

Sablan was a former executive director of the Commonwealth Elections Commission. Years later, he would find himself—for the third time—on the other side of the fence, filing a nomination petition instead of being the one accepting a nomination petition from candidates.

He said the commission has hardworking staff and fair, to ensure free elections.

Since he was first elected into office, Sablan has championed education, health, welfare, and the economy, among other things.

In a separate statement that his office released, Sablan said, "There is no higher privilege than our people's decision to represent them in Congress for two terms and for that I am extremely grateful and very humbled."

"As always, it is for our people to decide who continues to work on their behalf and on behalf of our Northern Mariana Islands. And so, in all humility, I once again ask for the support of our people this election as we continue in earnest our work for a Northern Mariana Islands we can all be proud of," he said.

Oscar M. Babauta, chairman of the Covenant Party's 2012 campaign committee, said the Covenant Party stands behind Sablan, who was endorsed by the party and its titular head, Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, on Covenant Day in March.

Babauta, who was among those in the crowd yesterday, said that Sablan has been an effective voice of the CNMI in Congress.

Juan S. Tenorio, who calls himself a true Republican, said Sablan has been doing a "tremendous" job for the CNMI and its people, and is endorsing Sablan's candidacy. Also in the crowd was Rep. Ray Tebuteb (R-Saipan).

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP) is joined by his family, relatives and supporters for a group photo after filing his nomination petition with the Commonwealth Election Commission yesterday afternoon.

Judge urged to look into alleged collusion between Fund lawyers

A retiree urged the U.S. District Court for the NMI Bankruptcy Division yesterday to look into an alleged collusion between any attorneys in the NMI Retirement Fund's Chapter 11 petition.

John A. Angello reiterated his objection to the payment of any unwarranted "legal costs" that, according to him, also do not qualify as "administrative costs."

In the arena of common sense and judicial fairness, this benefits claims seem more appropriate as administrative costs than claims for legal costs as demanded by the Fund's legal counsels, said Angello in his reply to the objection by the Official Creditors' Committee to his motion for administrative cost.

Angello recently asked the Bankruptcy Court to award him $378,010 in retirement share and administrative cost.

In that motion, Angello said he should get the payment before all the "grinning attorneys gorge themselves with wanton and excessive fees for filing needless claims and counterclaims and useless Chapter 11 bankruptcy petition and subsequent motions to keep the litigious meter running."

Don Jeffrey Gelber, as counsel for the Official Creditors' Committee, objected to Angello's motion. Gelber said Angello seeks payment for sums that do not qualify as reimbursement for "administrative costs" within the meaning and contemplation of the Bankruptcy Code.

In his reply, Angello said if the court agrees with him and eliminates any and all unwarranted or improper legal costs and administrative costs, he will drop his $378,010 retiree claim and rely on the "mercy" of the CNMI government and the Fund to administer his benefits in a timely manner.

Mary Flanagan, a former CNMI government lawyer, last week urged Bankruptcy Court designated judge Robert J. Faris to protect the Fund's dwindling assets from "exorbitant, unnecessary and unjustified fees" being demanded by the Fund's Boston-based counsel, Brown and Rudnick law firm.

Brown and Rudnick law firm is demanding payment of $765,937.82 in professional services and reimbursement for expenses, covering the period from April 17, 2012, to June 13, 2012. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

A weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority
Tourism is everybody's business.

28th Annual Saipan International Fishing Tournament
July 14-15, 2012

The 28th **Annual Saipan International Fishing Tournament** will be held on July 14-15, 2012, in Saipan. Participants must register on Friday, (July 13) from 5-6:30 p.m. at **Smiling Cove Marina** in Garapan.

Registration is $150 per boat, including one captain and one crewmember. Each additional crewmember is $25.

Boaters are reminded to have their boats inspected by the **Dept. of Public Safety Boating Safety** office this week. Appointments may be made by calling the Boating Safety office at 1.670.664.9180/1/2. All boats must have a full inspection to participate.

Launching will be from 6-8 a.m. both days at **Smiling Cove Marina**, Sugar Dock in Chalan Kanoa, and Garapan Fishing Base. All boats launching after 8 a.m. need to check out at Smiling Cove Marina. Participants wishing to register their catch must do be inside the Smiling Cove Mariana channel by 6 p.m. both days.

Tournament fee also includes entrance to the awards banquet.

For more information or a registration form and rules, contact Frank Tudela of the Marianas Visitors Authority at ftudela@mymarianas.com or 1.670.664.3210.

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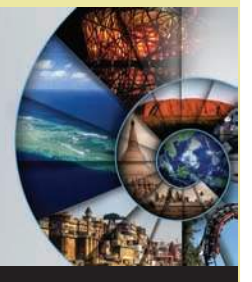

This Tourism Tuesday space is provided by Saipan Tribune

CHC employee count down to over 450; payroll cost remains high

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The cash-strapped Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. has posted significant declines in the number of its employees on three islands but its personnel cost remains high.

Corporation chief financial officer Alvaro Santos disclosed to *Saipan Tribune* that from over $800,000 in payroll cost every two weeks, the amount went down slightly to nearly $700,000 per pay period—an amount that he says continues to be high for an organization that has very limited funding resources.

When the corporation took over the Department of Public Health in October last year, it had about 600 employees working in the Commonwealth Health Center, Tinian, and Rota health clinics. Latest corporation records show that the personnel count is down to over 450 following several resignations, retirements, and the emergency workforce reduction earlier implemented by management.

Santos confirmed that overtime costs have spiked since the departure of a large number of nurses starting in May.

Nursing director Leticia Reyes separately confirmed this last week, saying that overtime cost remains high at this time because they have no option but ask their nurses to extend their working hours to fill the critical void left by those who have already left.

Santos said that when the corporation started, overtime cost totaled about 1,400 hours per pay period. He sees almost the same level at present due to the resignations and manpower shortages in key areas.

"Until we get replacements, we will continue to see an increasing cost for overtime," he said.

Meantime, Santos disclosed that the corporation has yet to receive a single penny from the additional $7 million line of credit from the Marianas Public Land Trust. He said that "involved parties" in the loan agreement are still working on several details and requirements being asked by MPLT.

"All parties here are working together to fast track the process so the money can become available to us," he said, referring to the Finance Department, the corporation, and the Office of the Attorney General.

Optimistic that the corporation can deliver on all requirements, Santos expects the first drawdown in the next two months. The $7 million additional line of credit will be released by MPLT on a per-need request by the corporation.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Frances Demapan and her children get tight hugs from friends and relatives at the Chalan Kanoa cemetery yesterday afternoon.

CNMI bids goodbye to 3rd CNMI chief justice

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Guam joined the Commonwealth in paying their last respects yesterday to the late CNMI Supreme Court chief justice Miguel S. Demapan, whose 18 years of service at the Judiciary has become an integral part of Commonwealth history.

Demapan's wife, Frances, their five children—Mike, Patrick, Frannie, Soleana and Micaela—and Demapan's siblings were joined by hundreds at a funeral, Mass, and burial rites from 6:30am to 1pm.

Public viewing was held at 8am.

The Mt. Carmel Cathedral was packed when the Mass of Christian burial was held at 11am. Archbishop Anthony Sablan Apuron of the Archdiocese of Agana served as the principal celebrant.

In her eulogy, Frannie Demapan said it is not easy to speak about their father, but besides their mother who has spent 37 years by his side, she believes that "no one can explain him better than his children."

Frannie said it is humbleness that distinguishes their father from others.

"A man who preferred to work behind the scenes instead of perform in the show, our Dad quietly retired from the Judiciary without any elaborate celebration or ceremony," Frannie said.

Frannie said that listening to the speeches and kind words from members of the legal community during Friday's memorial service at the Supreme Court made them clearly see the impact their father made on the Commonwealth "as a dedicated and hardworking public servant."

Frannie shared stories honoring Demapan's personal, private side as a family man and motivator.

Frannie recalled that as their father's health began to deteriorate, she and their family took turns caring for him around the clock.

"As my Mom waited to give him the next spoonful, my Dad swallowed his food and out of nowhere mutters, 'I love you guys,'" the teary-eyed Frannie said.

After the Mass, family members, siblings, and relatives guided the casket to the front door of the cathedral. The casket was then brought to the Chalan Kanoa cemetery.

Seen either at the church or cemetery were Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos, Cabinet members, U.S. District Court for the NMI chief judge Ramona V. Manglona, judges and justices, lawyers, and federal and local visiting public officials.

From Guam, among those who paid their respects were U.S. District Court for Guam chief judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood, Guam vice speaker B.J. Cruz, and U.S. Attorney for the Districts of Guam and the CNMI Alicia Limtiaco.

At the cemetery, ribbons and flowers were placed and thrown on the casket. Sobs turned to cries when the casket was finally lowered.

A family member later announced that the family is overwhelmed by the show of respect by the people who came out there.

Demapan, who had undergone surgeries for colon cancer, passed away on June 30, at the Commonwealth Health Center. He was 59.

Demapan served as the third chief justice of the CNMI Supreme Court.

Tinian mayor laments delay in draft MOU for a ship recycling facility

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz asked Gov. Benigno R. Fitial yesterday to release the draft memorandum of understanding between the Commonwealth Ports Authority and First International Corp. for the recycling of U.S. ships at Tinian harbor, more than two weeks since the meeting of all parties concerned.

Dela Cruz said the draft MOU should have been released to the CPA board of directors for action by now.

"I had hoped that this MOU would have already been accomplished, as we agreed at our joint meeting in the Senate session hall two weeks ago," Dela Cruz told Fitial in a two-page letter.

The Fitial administration has yet to respond to media request for comment on the draft MOU which, according to Dela Cruz, has not been released yet by assistant attorney general Jim Stump. Fitial is leaving for Virginia this week to attend the National Governors Association meeting.

Fitial earlier said he supports the ship recycling project on Tinian.

Dela Cruz said that Tinian has agreed to work with the U.S. Interior's Office of Insular Affairs to reprogram over $3 million of its precious capital improvement project funds to make the necessary repairs to the Tinian harbor. The repairs would make the dock space functional for the ship recycling project.

"CPA's only investment is the cost of the contract with FIC to bring the project to fruition," Dela Cruz added.

The Tinian mayor said that Keith Aughenbaugh, CIP fund coordinator at OIA, confirmed that federal CIP funds can be used for this purpose.

"I see no reason why the project should be delayed and every reason why CPA should be pushing forward with it aggressively," the mayor said, adding that the project would mean more to the CNMI than it does to Tinian.

OIA Director Nikolau Pula told the media during that meeting with Fitial, CPA, and Tinian leaders that OIA is open to assisting the CNMI by way of allowing the redirection of CIP funds to help repair the Tinian pier which, in turn, would help support a proposed multimillion Tinian ship recycling facility.

Initially, most of the funds generated by the ship recycling operation will go to the general fund or to CPA, including all business gross revenue taxes, excise taxes on containers full of scrap metal headed to China, and lease fees paid to CPA for the use of the dock and adjacent lands that CPA owns.

See TINIAN on Page 4

Independence Bank: It's OAG that pulled plug on CUC loan

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Rhode Island-based Independence Bank business development director Michael C. Sammartino said yesterday it was the CNMI Office of the Attorney General—and not the U.S. Department of Agriculture—that pulled the plug on the $10 million loan for the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

"The USDA has not pulled the plug on the loan; in fact, Independence Bank and USDA have been waiting to close the loan for the past 60 days. It was the CNMI Attorney General that has delayed the loan closing, making the statement that the CUC does not have repayment ability [untrue]," Sammartino told *Saipan Tribune*.

Sammartino also informed lawmakers, including Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota), Sen. Juan Ayuyu (Ind-Rota) and Rep. Frank Cruz (R-Saipan), about this.

"The Attorney General is not correct, repayment ability exists; we do not make loans without repayment ability, nor does the USDA. Further, the CUC has been building a payment reserve for the loan [as mentioned by Rep. Frank Dela Cruz]. The reserve is now over $1 million," he said.

Manglona, in a separate interview, echoed Sammartino's statement that CUC has the capability to set aside money to repay the loan, also citing the estimated $1 million that has been collected from CUC customers since last year.

Sammartino said the reserve is a requirement of the loan, and clearly assists in repayment ability.

"Should the reserve be reprogrammed, we will not make the loan. Independence Bank and the USDA remain ready, willing and able to make the loan. We await the CUC and the CNMI government. We are pleased that our loan will assist the CUC in meeting its mandated requirements with the EPA," he said.

CUC is back under the Executive Branch wing after Gov. Benigno R. Fitial declared a state of emergency for CUC because of financial, procurement and hiring crises, among other things.

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos said in his understanding, USDA as the loan guarantor "has decided not to move forward" with the loan.

A USDA-guaranteed loan would have a much lower interest rate than a regular loan.

The Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation's Committee on Public Utilities and Infrastructure, chaired by Rep. Frank Dela Cruz (R-Saipan), called for a meeting with CUC on Thursday afternoon to shed light on the cancelled $10 million loan.

Dela Cruz said because the loan has been cancelled, CUC should give back to its customers an estimated $1 million that he believes the corporation started collecting from utilities customers in July 2011 to help repay the planned $10 million loan that didn't materialize.

CUC was supposed to use the $10-million loan to meet federal requirements under the U.S. District Court and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency stipulated orders.

Probationer allegedly steals air compressor

Police arrested Thursday a probationer who allegedly stole an air compressor at a residence in Afetnas.

Eric Aguon, 20, was brought to the Superior Court yesterday on a theft charge.

Associate Judge Perry B. Inos released Aguon from the custody of the Department of Corrections in the theft case but remanded him to DOC under the previous criminal conviction.

The Office of Public Defender was appointed to serve as counsel for Aguon.

Police detective Alexander T. Sakisat stated in his report that a police officer responded to a residence in Afetnas where a theft incident allegedly occurred.

Sakisat said that when the officer arrived, a witness pointed to Aguon as having allegedly admitted to going into a house on July 2, 2012, and stealing an air compressor.

Aguon allegedly sold the air compressor to another person.

Last March the Office of the Attorney General asked that Aguon's probation in a previous assault conviction be revoked after he was arrested on Dec. 18, 2011, for disturbing the peace and for minor consuming alcohol. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

EXODUS

From Page 1

the contributions she put into the retirement program, which is now in an emergency state and dealing with a bankruptcy petition.

The nurse, who agreed to speak on condition of anonymity, has been serving the public hospital for nine years. She expressed frustration with the ongoing struggles of the facility.

Another nurse, who has also been with CHC for several years, said she turned in her resignation last week.

She said she has been in a wait-and-see mode for quite some time now until she made the final decision to quit and explore her chances in another country. She refused to disclose her specific employment plans at this time.

Majority of the nurses serving at CHC are nonresidents recruited from the Philippines.

On Monday last week, CHC nursing director Leticia Reyes told *Saipan Tribune* that a total of 28 nurses have resigned since January to June this year. This brings the nursing workforce left at CHC to only 139—a significant decrease from 167 full-time employees since the start of the fiscal year in October 2011. Reyes is on personal leave since July 4.

Factoring in the latest resignations, nursing employees at the hospital will further go down to just 131 by the end of October.

During last week's interview with Reyes, she disclosed that recruitment is ongoing for nurses and they are targeting to fill all vacant positions at the soonest possible time.

Reyes disclosed that they have already interviewed several applicants. However, because there is a very small percentage of U.S. citizens nurses on island, the entry of nonresident replacements is being hampered by the new federal immigration procedures.

72 HOURS

From Page 1

ly because of a $12 million additional projected revenue.

"There's discussion of the current collection and if we can support bringing back 72 hours. We're looking at bringing back everybody to 72 hours for the rest of [fiscal year] 2012," Villagomez told senators.

Villagomez, however, pointed out that there has been no final decision yet.

Finance Secretary Larrisa Larson, during a Senate session, could not say when that decision to go back to 72 hours will be made.

The administration has seen improved collections in taxes and fees, prompting a consideration of 72 work hours between now and end-September, and to full 80 hours after that.

Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) said it would be "welcome news" if the administration decides to add eight more hours to employees' 64 work hours biweekly.

He said austerity should not be taken out of employees' pockets.

The Senate fought tooth and nail to block the House and the administration's 16-hour cut proposal during the 2011 budget deliberations but the deadlock caused a historic partial government shutdown. The Senate later conceded to a 16-hour cut, mainly to put an end to the partial shutdown that caused the temporary loss of jobs for over 1,000 government employees.

Sen. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan), for his part, asked about the cost of restoring 72 hours for the rest of the fiscal year. Villagomez said it would be less than $1 million.

This is based on the calculation that restoring 80 hours in one fiscal year would cost some $6.98 million. If this is divided into four quarters, that would be $1.7 million. But because the plan is bringing the biweekly work hours to only 72 and not 80 and the last quarter of fiscal year 2012 has already started, the cost would be much less.

The normal government work hours biweekly is 80 hours but because of austerity measures, the Fitial administration reduced it to 64.

The 16-hour cut, representing 20 percent of employees' salaries, is being implemented by closing most government offices every Friday, thus the term "austerity Fridays" in the CNMI.

Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee chair Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota) said her panel looks forward to receiving the actual collection and spending reports from the administration at least for the first three quarters of 2012, and this could help them in deliberating on the 2013 budget.

2013 budget cap

The Senate invited Larson and Villagomez to the session yesterday afternoon to shed light on the governor's revised 2013 budget that added $12 million more to the original submission of $102 million.

After about an hour of question-and-answer with Larson and Villagomez, the Senate was ready to act on House Concurrent Resolution 17-5, House Draft 1 that the House passed by a vote of 14-0 on Friday.

The Senate voted 6-0 to adopt the concurrent resolution, capping the fiscal year 2013 budget at $114 million, a 12-percent increase from the 2012 budget of $102 million.

Three senators were absent in yesterday's session: Sens. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian), Luis Crisostimo (Ind-Saipan), and Henry San Nicolas (Cov-Tinian).

Taimanao asked where the additional $12 million came from. Larson said most of it—or some $11 million—is from business gross revenue tax collection.

The Finance secretary also said more than half of the estimated $11 million comes from payment of back taxes as a result of the administration's aggressive enforcement of tax laws and policies. Finance has been entering into tax debt settlement agreements with delinquent taxpayers.

"We want to make sure everybody pays their taxes properly," Larson told senators.

Manglona wanted to hear from Larson whether the $12 million additional projected revenue is indeed a "conservative" figure. Larson said "yes."

Under the concurrent resolution, the total identified budgetary resources for 2013 is $133.641 million. Of this amount, $114.320 million is available for appropriation, which brings the budget back to the levels of over 20 years ago.

Senators also asked Larson and Villagomez about Medicaid funding, which senators hope to discuss further during a special meeting planned for Thursday afternoon.

The Senate will hold another special session on Wednesday.

CASINO

From Page 1

with others, we are suspending our particular petition signature drive until a future date. We thank those people who signed the petition and will hold their signatures in reserve," Angello said in a one-page letter to Buckingham.

Buckingham said the Office of the Attorney General received the document at 4:03pm yesterday.

Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan), another lead proponent of the casino signature drive, separately said, "The petition is not dead."

"We will continue to get the support of people. It's still in motion. It won't be this year but if there's going to be a special election next year, we would try to have this casino question in that election. Or we could wait for 2014," Torres told *Saipan Tribune*.

Torres said they would still keep the signatures they have already gathered, and will continue to gather additional ones.

He said it was disappointing that some people have been saying they will sign off on the petition but never did. He also said the core group met last week and agreed that if they fail to even muster at least 2,000 signatures, they will suspend the petition.

Angello could not be reached for comment yesterday afternoon, but as of mid-June, he presented only 497 signatures in support of placing the Saipan casino question on the ballot.

This was far below the required 2,590 signatures to have it on the Nov. 6 ballot. The 2,590 signatures represent 20 percent of the 12,948 registered voters on Saipan. Torres himself could not say how many signatures were gathered up to yesterday or up to the weekend.

Proponents, including Reps. Ray Basa (Cov-Saipan) and Ray Palacios (Cov-Saipan), said a casino industry could help grow the CNMI economy and could be a replacement for the garment industry, which pulled out from Saipan in 2009.

Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) and others had said they would have also liked the casino question to be placed on the ballot to gauge voters' sentiments about it, instead of placing the decision in the hands of 29 lawmakers.

Similar Saipan casino questions that previously succeeded in being placed on the ballot were defeated; the latest was in 2007. Saipan lawmakers tried to push it through local legislation but the governor vetoed it, saying it is unconstitutional. The court also has yet to decide on the certified question related to the local Saipan casino bill.

TINIAN

From Page 3

Dela Cruz said this means more than just creating 300 new private sector jobs in the recycling business as it will also create a new opportunity to create an industry that will export products from the CNMI—the first since the demise of the garment industry.

The Tinian mayor enumerated other benefits of having a ship recycling operation on Tinian.

Because the ship recycling company will be using its own ship to carry containers full of scrap metal to China, it can bring back containers filled with inexpensive pig food for new piggeries, and barbed wire and fence posts to expand cattle herds, Dela Cruz said.

He said a company on Saipan is developing a slaughterhouse. Tinian is also preparing a design for a U.S. Department of Agriculture-approved "kill station." This will allow local meat wholesalers and retailers to recut locally grown beef and pigs for resale, creating more private sector jobs for people and an import substitution product for local consumption or export.

Dela Cruz said that with the Tinian harbor fully operational, Tinian will be able to justify the need to receive additional CIP funding to repair the breakwater, thus making Tinian more attractive to military development.

"Finally, the ship recycling industry will generate the funds necessary for CPA to complete the Tinian West Field 'International' Airport. We are confident that if it becomes fully functional, then international air carriers will schedule direct flights to Tinian. This then will provide stimulus for those companies that have already applied for a casino license to begin construction on their hotel casino complex. We still believe that with your support, the Tinian hotel and casino industry can provide all the revenues the CNMI needs to make it financially viable once again," the mayor added.

Dela Cruz also reminded the governor of the commitment he made to the ship recycling project at their joint meeting with CPA, the Tinian Legislative Delegation, and OIA two weeks ago. He urged the governor to call a special meeting of the CPA board of directors and encourage them to approve the MOU with FIC.

The proposed facility will turn decommissioned U.S. ships into scrap metal and sell them in the open market. The planned project is neither a repair facility nor a shipyard. The vessels will be "scrubbed" to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency standards.

CUC: Public hospital made only 2 payments for utility arrears

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A Commonwealth Utilities Corp. official said that the public hospital, one of its biggest customers, made only two payments since the start of the fiscal year, resulting in the Commonwealth Health Center's nearly $500,000 arrears with the utilities company.

CUC chief financial officer Charles Warren made the clarification in reaction to claims by Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. chief financial officer Alvaro Santos that the corporation was surprised to get a $491,000 billing from CUC for June alone.

Warren confirmed yesterday that hospital's June billing is correct.

He also said that CHC reduced its kilowatt-hour consumption by about 100,000 kWh from May to June.

He said CUC billed the corporation about $315,000 for June compared to $368,000 for May. However, water and sewer consumption increased from May to June by about $19,000, Warren said.

Alvaro earlier said that the corporation will seek an explanation about the "too high" utility billing. Warren said yesterday they have yet to hear from the corporation.

"CHC is welcome to use the dispute resolution process available to all CUC customers when they receive bills they feel are incorrect. To date, I'm not aware of any formal billing disputes being filed," he said.

Based on CUC records, the corporation owes $3.266 million in unpaid utility obligation plus late fees.

Warren confirmed that the corporation has remitted only about $448,000 against charges of $3.6 million.

Records obtained by *Saipan Tribune* showed the following monthly billings of the corporation: $418,240 in October 2011; $749,160 in November 2011; $1,077,477 in December 2011; $1,573,405 in January 2012; and $2,035,217 in February 2012; $2,284,203 in March 2012; $2,712,097 in April 2012; $2,991,568 in May 2012; and $3,266,910 in June 2012.

Records show that the corporation made only two payments of $231,844.33 on May 8 and $216,000 on June 8.

Prior to these two payments, the hospital's total arrears totaled $3.6 million, of which $103,329 represented late fees.

Fugitive allegedly selling 'ice' falls

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Drug Enforcement Task Force arrested Friday a fugitive who allegedly sells crystal methamphetamine or "ice" in Gualo Rai.

Changfeng Zhang, 30, also known as KK, was taken to the Superior Court yesterday on charges of trafficking of a controlled substance and illegal possession of a controlled substance.

Superior Court Associate Judge Perry B. Inos imposed a $9,000 cash bail for Zhang's temporary release.

Preliminary hearing will be on July 16 at 9am.

Task force detective Steven A. Castro stated in his report that they were able to purchase from Zhang a total of $1,200 worth of "ice" during three sting operations in June and July.

Castro said that, on June 14, 2012, he and another detective spoke to a "cooperating source" about a Chinese man named KK who was allegedly selling "ice."

Castro said that, on June 15, the task force used an undercover police officer and the "cooperating source" to buy $200 worth of "ice" from Zhang.

The second operation occurred the next day, June 16, during which the same undercover police officer and "cooperating source" bought $200 worth of "ice" from the defendant.

The third operation was held on Friday, July 6, where the same undercover officer and "cooperating source" bought $800 worth of "ice" from Zhang.

After the suspect gave the illegal drugs to the two, he allegedly proceeded to a poker establishment in Garapan.

Castro said the arresting team proceeded to the game room where they arrested Zhang.

Castro said further investigation showed that Zhang is wanted by the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement for deportation.

144 withdraw Fund contributions

» Number expected to spike after bankruptcy case; passage of refund bill

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A large number of NMI Retirement Fund members withdrew their employee contributions in the first seven months of the fiscal year.

Worse, the number of members withdrawing their contributions is expected to increase after the Fund's bankruptcy case is resolved.

NMI Retirement Fund administrator Richard Villagomez told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that the agency recorded 144 withdrawals from October 2011 to April this year.

This figure was as of April 15, 2012—two days prior to the Fund's filing of a bankruptcy petition in court, which generally makes decisions for the pension agency for now until the case is formally dismissed.

Villagomez said the total amount refunded by these 144 members amounted to $2.4 million. Since the bankruptcy filing, many government employees have resigned in order to obtain a refund on their contributions.

Examples are longtime employees at the Commonwealth Health Center, majority of whom are nurses, who quit their jobs to enable them to withdraw their contributions.

The first batch of 17 nurses who resigned, *Saipan Tribune* learned, have yet to be paid their refunds because all decisions are up to the bankruptcy court.

Saipan Tribune also learned that many at the Public School System have given up their posts to get back their Fund contributions.

Early last month, the Fund asked the bankruptcy court to allow it to continue paying benefits to members. No formal order has been issued yet. Benefit payments cover pensions and disability annuitants.

In fiscal year 2011, a total of 389 members withdrew their Fund contributions. This is a 33-percent increase over fiscal year 2010, which had 292 members refunding their contributions.

The Fund paid out a total of $5.7 million in refunds in fiscal year 2011. In fiscal year 2010, total refunds amounted to $3.363 million.

Based on Fund records, the agency paid out the following refunds in the past 10 years: $3.9 million in 2000; $3.2 million in 2001; $4.1 million in 2002; $3.5 million in 2003; $3 million in 2004; $2.9 million in 2005; $4.5 million in 2006; $5.2 million in 2007; $5.5 million in 2008; and $4.8 million in 2009.

Saipan Tribune learned that refunds are made for a variety of reasons. When employees withdraw, they do not need to state a reason for doing so. The Fund believes that among the reasons for these withdrawals include the economic difficulty, government austerity, private sector layoff, and now the uncertainty of the Fund operation and other challenges.

The volume of refunds is expected to increase significantly this year once the bankruptcy case is over and if legislation allowing government employees to withdraw 50 percent of their contributions without resigning is passed into law.

House Bill 17-226, which the Fund earlier said will be a death blow to the agency, seeks to allow active members of the defined benefit plan to withdraw their contributions without severance of employment or penalty. This means all 2,996 members can possibly withdraw their contributions. Gov. Benigno R. Fitial vetoed the measure but an amendment to the bill is now being worked out at the Legislature.

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US Census: Average pay, number of jobs up in CNMI in 2010

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Despite the garment industry's demise in 2009, average payroll in the CNMI went up from $12,898 in 2009 to $14,057, according to a new U.S. Census Bureau report. This could partly be a result of the annual 50-cent increase in the Commonwealth's minimum wage since 2007.

The 50-cent minimum wage hike occurs yearly until it reaches the federal wage floor of $7.25 an hour.

Total annual payroll for 2010 was $148.6 million, up $17.2 million from the 2009 total of $131.4 million.

The County Business Patterns data that the U.S. Census Bureau released also show an increase of 382 jobs in the CNMI—from 10,188 in 2009 to 10,570 in 2010.

But over the same time, the number of businesses dropped by 50, or from 1,232 in 2009 to 1,182 in 2010.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP) said this is only the third year that the annual County Business Patterns report has included economic data for the CNMI and the other U.S. insular areas such as Guam, American Samoa, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

"Nationwide, the report provides detailed information on the number of business establishments, employees, and first-quarter and annual payrolls for some 1,100 industries," he said during the weekend.

Of the 1,182 reported establishments in 2010, most were in retail trade (241) and accommodation and food services (140).

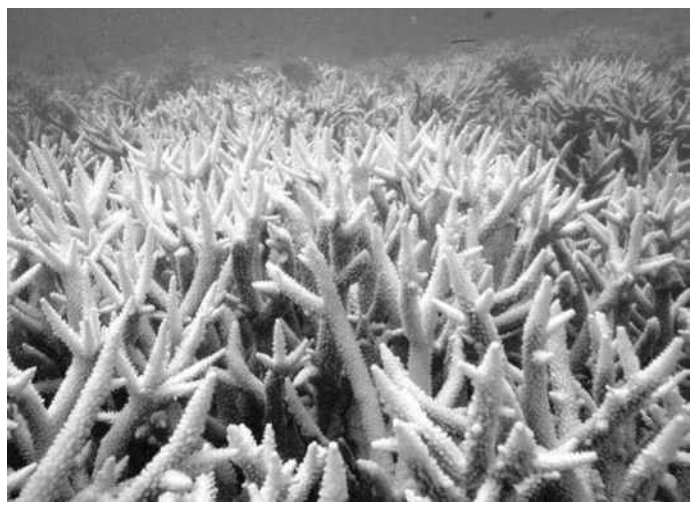
Accommodation and food services led in employment, however, with 3,264 workers followed by retail with 1,606.

County Business Patterns excludes those who were self-employed, employees of private households, agriculture production workers, and most government employees.

26TH ANNIVERSARY
Congratulations go out to Julieta Cunanan and her family in celebrating the 26th anniversary of D'Elegance Restaurant last Saturday. D'Elegance was incorporated on Nov. 15, 1985, engaging in restaurant, barbecue, and space rental. Its main location is on Alaihai Avenue, Garapan, Saipan. The company has 16 employees. In acknowledging the many years of business success, the owners and employees gathered Saturday night for a special dinner and blessings.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Science official: Ocean acidity major reef threat



AP

In this Jan. 23, 2006 file photo provided by Centre of Marine Studies, The University of Queensland, fish swim amongst bleached coral near the Keppel Islands in the Great Barrier Reef, Australia.

KRISTEN GELINEAU
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SYDNEY (AP)—Oceans' rising acid levels have emerged as one of the biggest threats to coral reefs, acting as the "osteoporosis of the sea" and threatening everything from food security to tourism to livelihoods, the head of a U.S. scientific agency said Monday.

The speed by which the oceans' acid levels has risen caught scientists off-guard, with the problem now considered to be climate change's "equally evil twin," National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration chief Jane Lubchenco told The Associated Press.

"We've got sort of the perfect storm of stressors from multiple places really hammering reefs around the world," said Lubchenco, who was in Australia to speak at the International Coral Reef Symposium in the northeast city of Cairns, near the Great Barrier Reef. "It's a very serious situation."

Oceans absorb excess carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, leading to an increase in acidity. Scientists are worried about how that increase will affect sea life, particularly reefs, as higher acid levels make it tough for coral skeletons to form. Lubchenco likened ocean acidification to osteoporosis - a bone-thinning disease - because researchers are concerned it will lead to the deterioration of reefs.

Scientists initially assumed that the carbon dioxide absorbed by the water would be sufficiently diluted as the oceans mixed shallow and deeper waters. But most of the carbon dioxide and the subsequent chemical changes are being concentrated in surface waters, Lubchenco said.

"And those surface waters are changing much more rapidly than initial calculations have suggested," she said. "It's yet another reason to be very seriously concerned about the amount of carbon dioxide that is in the atmosphere now and the additional amount we continue to put out."

Higher acidity levels are especially problematic for creatures such as oysters, because they slow the growth of their shells. Experiments have shown other animals, such as clown fish, also suffer. In a study that mimicked the level of acidity scientists expect by the end of the century, clown fish began swimming toward predators, instead of away from them, because their sense of smell had been dulled.

"We're just beginning to uncover many of the ways in which the changing chemistry of oceans affects lots of behaviors," Lubchenco said. "So salmon not being able to find their natal streams because their sense of smell was impaired, that's a very real possibility."

The potential impact of all of this is huge, Lubchenco said. Coral reefs attract critical tourism dollars and protect fragile coastlines from threats such as tsunamis. Seafood is the primary source of protein for many people around the world. Already, some oyster farmers have blamed higher acidity levels for a decrease in stocks.

Some attempts to address the problem are already under way. Instruments that measure changing acid levels in the water have been installed in some areas to warn oyster growers when to stop the flow of ocean water to their hatcheries.

But that is only a short-term solution, Lubchenco said. The most critical element, she said, is reducing carbon emissions.

"The carbon dioxide that we have put in the atmosphere will continue to be absorbed by oceans for decades," she said. "It is going to be a long time before we can stabilize and turn around the direction of change simply because it's a big atmosphere and it's a big ocean."

Chamber's July meeting at Kanoa Resort

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce will host its July general membership luncheon meeting at the newly christened Kanoa Resort in Susupe (the former Saipan Grand Hotel) this Wednesday. Luncheon will begin at 11:30am, and the meeting begins at 12pm. Luncheon is $20 for SCC members, and $30 for guests and non-members.

SCC will present two speakers this Wednesday: Oscar Camacho, from the Commonwealth Development Authority, will present CDA's role in the State Small Business Credit Initiative. The $13.2 million allocated the CNMI uses those federal funds to stimulate private sector lending and improve access to capital for small businesses that are creditworthy but not getting loans they need to expand and create jobs. CDA says there are now two banks in the CNMI that are participating in getting these loans out to local small businesses.

Also speaking will be Perry Inos, heading the CNMI Department of Commerce's Small Business Development Center, will present an overview of training workshops available to Chamber members and non-members through a memorandum of understanding signed between SBDC and the Chamber. SBDC would like input from the Chamber on desired workshop topics and training. ***(SCC)***

One Nation urges alcohol-free Guam Liberation Day parade

The Ramirez family tent at the Liberation Day Parade in 2010 ONE NATION

HAGÅTÑA, Guam—Partners and supporters of the One Nation campaign come together, now on their third year, to encourage Guam's communities to host an alcohol-free celebration of the 68th Liberation Day. The group, led by Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Prevention and Training Branch, will be at Paseo Stadium on July 13 where Department of Parks and Recreation will issue permits for family tents at the parade route. Groups and families who have obtained a tent permit will have the opportunity to pledge their tent to be alcohol-free during the parade and throughout Liberation Day. Distributed on a first-come, first-serve basis, One Nation family packs will be provided to groups and families who sign pledges.

"Liberation Day is a celebration of our culture and the freedom to practice our culture," said Alcohol Prevention coordinator Audrey Topasna. "For many families, it's been a tradition to celebrate this day at the parade. I myself remember camping out with my siblings and cousins at our family tent. What I also remember are adults drinking throughout the day, even in front of the younger members of the family. The goal of One Nation is to change this part of our tradition that taints the youth's image and understanding of our culture."

One Nation, Alcohol-Free is a social marketing campaign that proposes to reduce the social acceptability and norm that alcohol is part of the Pacific island culture. According to its website (www.peaceguam.org), controlling alcohol abuse and its consequences on Guam is both a public health and a cultural challenge.

One Nation is supported by DMHSA, the Governor's Prevention Education and Community Empowerment Council, Youth for Youth LIVE! Guam, Department of Youth Affairs, Island Girl Power, Capoeira Mandinga Guam, Sanctuary, Inc., Live Healthy Guam, Department of Public Health and Social Services, Mothers Against Drunk Driving, and Foremost Foods Inc.

When One Nation was launched in 2010, 29 families pledged for an alcohol-free tent during the parade. Many of these families pledged again the next year, one of them the Ramirez family. The Ramirez's proudly displayed their One Nation banner, shirts, water bottles, cooler, and flags, while promoting against alcohol at their family tent. This year, the One Nation group hopes to see more families commit to being a positive role model at the parade.

"Changing social norms is a great challenge that One Nation is partaking…challenging but not impossible. We are taking it one family, one event at a time," said DMHSA Prevention and Training branch supervisor Barbara Benavente.

For more information on the One Nation Liberation day Family packs and on how to pledge to be alcohol-free, contact the DMHSA-PEACE office at 477-9079 ~ 83 or visit www.onenationguam.com. ***(PR)***

Wireless networking in the developing world

The University of Guam-TADEO has partnered with International Centre for Theoretical Physics, University of California, Berkeley, Illinois Institute of Technology, and Green Wifi to host a workshop on Wireless Networking in the Developing World to be held at UOG on July 31 to Aug. 2, 2012.

The aim of this workshop is to develop wireless network skills in the regional workforce so that broadband connections can be extended at a lower cost to remote islands for education, health care, and research.

Workshop participation is limited to eight students due to course material licensing and team project installation. Preferred participants are university students with regional backgrounds who have a working knowledge of computer operations and networking.

The Wireless Networking in the Developing World workshop is free of charge for the eight students who are selected to participate.

Students may submit a letter of interest with current resume or bio to Manny Hechanova via email (mhechanova@uguam.uog.edu. The deadline to apply is July 24, 2012. ***(UOG)***

Coast Guard locates overdue sailing vessel

HONOLULU—U.S. Coast Guard crews have located a sailing vessel which was reported overdue west of Lanai at approximately 9:30am Saturday.

The four mariners aboard the 34-foot sailing vessel *Larina* are in good condition. They were located by a Coast Guard aircrew piloting an HC-130 Hercules aircraft who confirmed them visually and via VHF radio. The four mariners were not in any distress and reported no injuries. The Hercules crew asked the names of all crewmembers and confirmed they are safe.

The crew aboard the *Larina* filed an informal float plan with a friend ashore, stating that they were heading to Manele Bay in Lanai on a seven-day trip. The Coast Guard highly encourages mariners to file a float plan with a responsible friend, family member or their local harbormaster. The plan should include the date and time of your departure, where you intend to go and when you intend to return. If you do not arrive or return on the specified date, the Coast Guard can try to contact you and initiate a search and rescue operation if there is necessity.

Coast Guard Sector Honolulu command center personnel were notified of the overdue vessel by the reporting party at 6:48pm Friday.

The reporting party stated she was last in contact with the vessel at 5:45pm. Thursday. During the phone call she was told the trip was going well and to expect a call back later in the day. The call back never came.

The crew consists of two men, Travis Aborn and Sam Gary, along with two women, Elizabeth Miles and a woman only identified as Alyssa. ***(USCG)***

Procurement And Supply
CNMI Government

INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO.: ITB12-DPS-093 (A)(B)
Submission Date: July 26, 2012 • Time: 10:00 a.m.

"PURCHASE TWO (2) 2012 KENWORTH TRIPLE COMBINATION PUMPER (1-CIF SAIPAN) (1-CIF ROTA) AND PURCHASE OF FIVE (5) 2012 FORD TYPE II AMBULANCE (4-CIF SAIPAN) (1-CIF TINIAN) FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY-FIRE DIVISION"

Copies of the specifications may be picked-up at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base Dr., Saipan, during regular working hours.

Questions regarding this ITB should be directed to Mr. Thomas M. Manglona, Fire Chief at (670) 664-9137 or (670) 898-3460 no later than the close of business, **July 16, 2012**.

This is a federally funded project; as such, ***local preference is not available***, because its use is prohibited by federal law granting funding for this project.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any and all bids and proposals; in whole or in part, and to waive any imperfection in a bid in the best interest of the Commowealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All bids shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/S/ **AMBROSIO T. OGUMORO**
ACTING COMMISSIONER DPS

/S/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP NO.: RFP12-DEQ-092

SUBMISSION: AUGUST 15, 2012 **TIME: 2:00 P.M.**

"ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTING SERVICES FOR THE CNMI A PROJECT UNDER THE DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY"

THE SCOPE OF WORK FOR THIS PROJECT WILL BE AVAILABLE ON OR AFTER JULY 10, 2012 AT THE DEQ FRONT DESK OR CAN BE RECEIVED ELECTRONICALLY BY E-MAIL REQUEST TO **raymasga@deq.gov.mp**

A PRE-PROPOSAL MEETING IS SCHEDULED ON **JULY 30, 2012 AT 9:30 A.M., LOCAL TIME**, IN THE 2ND FLOOR DEQ CONFERENCE ROOM. QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS PROJECT MAY BE FAXED TO MR. RAY MASGA AT (670) 664-8540 NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS, **AUGUST 02, 2012.**

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE ***IS NOT AVAILABLE***, BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

/S/ FRANK M. RABAULIMAN
DIRECTOR, DEQ

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP NO.: RFP12-DEQ-094

SUBMISSION: AUGUST 15, 2012 **TIME: 2:00 P.M.**

"DEVELOP SITE MANAGEMENT PROCESS GUIDANCE DOCUMENT & APPROPRIATE FORMS FOR EACH PROCESS ELEMENT WITHN THE STATE RESPONSE PROGRAM A PROJECT UNDER THE DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY"

THE SCOPE OF WORK FOR THIS PROJECT WILL BE AVAILABLE ON OR AFTER **JULY 10, 2012** AT THE DEQ FRONT DESK OR CAN BE RECEIVED ELECTRONICALLY BY E-MAIL REQUEST TO **raymasga@deq.gov.mp**

A PRE-PROPOSAL MEETING IS SCHEDULED ON **JULY 30, 2012 AT 10:30 A.M., LOCAL TIME**, IN THE 2ND FLOOR DEQ CONFERENCE ROOM. QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS PROJECT MAY BE FAXED TO MR. RAY MASGA AT (670) 664-8540 NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS, **AUGUST 02, 2012.**

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THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

/S/ FRANK M. RABAULIMAN
DIRECTOR, DEQ

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

BRUCE L. MAILMAN, #F0153
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Saipan, MP 96950-8900
Telephone: 233-0081
Facsimile: 233-0090

ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF
WELLS FARGO FINANCIAL SAIPAN, INC.
aka WELLS FARGO FINANCIAL, INC.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

WELLS FARGO FINANCIAL SAIPAN, INC. aka WELLS FARGO FINANCIAL, INC. Plaintiff, -v- **LINO B. SANTOS and EMELITA T. SANTOS,** Defendant.	**CIVIL ACTION NO. 11- 0320** **NOTICE OF SALE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court on June 19, 2012 in this matter, I will sell, at public auction to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth herein below, all of the right, title, and interest of defendants LINO B. SANTOS and EMELITA T. SANTOS in and to the following real property located at Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands:

LOT 011 G 814, AS MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED ON DRAWING/CADASTRAL PLAT NO. 011 G 17, THE ORIGINAL OF WHICH WAS RECORDED ON DECEMBER 9, 1993 AS DOCUMENT NO. 93-4285 AT THE OFFICE OF THE COMMONWEALTH RECORDER, SAIPAN.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on July 27, 2012, at the hour of 4:00 p.m., at the law offices of Mailman & Kara, LLC, 2nd Floor, Tan Marikita Bldg., Beach Road at Cpl. Derence Jack Street, Garapan, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Inspection of Property. It is the responsibility of each bidder to inspect the property prior to the sale. Failure to inspect the property or any portion thereof will not constitute ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any buyer.

Warranties and Covenants. All property listed for sale in this Notice will be sold in its current condition, and at its current location. The sale will be held without any warranties or covenants whatsoever, whether express or implied, including but not limited to warranties of title, merchantability, and/or fitness for any purpose whatsoever, all of which warranties and covenants are hereby expressly disclaimed. Neither the undersigned nor the plaintiff may give any warranty or covenant, express or implied, with respect to the property listed for sale in this Notice. Neither the undersigned nor the plaintiff shall be liable for the quality of the property listed for sale in this Notice, or for any fault or defect in the description thereof. Buyers shall not be entitled to rescission, damages, or any other remedy on account thereof.

Conduct of Sale.
a. Reserve. The auction sale may be held with reserve. The reserve price on any property offered for sale may or may not be disclosed to bidders, in the sole discretion of the undersigned.
b. Rights and duties of auctioneer. Consistent with the laws, customs, and usages of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales, the undersigned shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale: (1) to withdraw the property listed for sale in this Notice before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted; (2) to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and (3) to reject, on behalf of the seller, any or all bids, for any reason.
c. Bids. Bids may be submitted in advance for any or all of the property listed in this Notice. The highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Advance bids may be submitted only in writing, signed by the bidder, and delivered to the law offices of Mailman & Kara, LLC, 2nd Floor, Tan Marikita Bldg., Beach Road at Cpl. Derence Jack Street, Garapan, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The bidder assumes all risk of non-delivery, late delivery, or mis-delivery of bids. Any person, including the plaintiff, may bid in person at the auction sale, whether or not such person has submitted an advance bid.
d. Disputes. The undersigned may resubmit any property listed in this Notice if a dispute arises as to any bid thereon.

Enforcement of Auction Sale.
a. Deposit. Every successful bidder shall pay to the undersigned a deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price immediately after the sale is consummated. Payment shall be in cash or by certified check. The balance must be paid to the plaintiff, in care of Mailman & Kara, LLC, within three (3) days from the date of sale, in cash or by certified check. If the balance is not so paid, plaintiff will retain the deposit as liquidated damages, and will again offer the property for sale.
b. Memorandum of Sale. If requested by the undersigned, every successful bidder must sign a Memorandum of Sale, immediately after the sale of any property is struck off at auction.
c. Court Approval. Every sale may be subject to approval by the Court. The auctioneer makes no warranties or promises with respect to court approval of the sale, including but not limited to the time in which such approval may be granted. No delay in the granting of court approval shall be ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any successful bidder. The successful bidder will be promptly notified if and when court approval is sought, and if and when it is granted.

Change of Terms and Conditions. The undersigned and the plaintiff reserve the right to change any of the terms hereof by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on all bidders by constructive notice.

DATED, this 26th day of June, 2012.

/s/ RONNIE D. HODGES, Auctioneer

NMC fall admission application deadline

The Northern Marianas College is reminding new students who have not applied for admission that the deadline to submit admission applications is Tuesday, July 31, 2012.

Applications for admission and other forms may be picked up at NMC's Office of Admissions & Records located in Building N at the NMC As Terlaje campus, or may be downloaded from www.nmcnet.edu.

Note that supporting documents (i.e. transcripts from institutions previously attended, health evaluation form, and copy of a valid photo I.D.) must also be turned in within 60 calendar days of submitting the admission application. Application forms submitted after the deadline will be processed for the following semester, spring 2013.

IMPORTANT DATES

July 31: Deadline to submit admission applications for fall 2012
Aug. 13-16: Regular registration for classes (9am - 6pm)
Aug. 17: Late registration for classes (9am - 6pm)
Aug. 20: First day of classes

English Placement Test Schedule

Aug. 7, 9, 14, 16: 9am - 6pm, Building M
Aug. 8, 10, 13, 15, 17: 9am - 4pm, Building M

Math Placement Test Schedule

Aug. 14: 10am - 12pm: Room A-9
5pm - 7pm Room A-9
Aug. 15: 10am - 12pm: Room A-9
Aug. 16: 10am - 12pm: Room A-9
5pm - 7pm Room A-9
Aug. 17: 10am - 12pm: Room A-9

Registration for NMC's fall 2012 semester will begin on Monday, Aug. 13, and will continue until Friday, Aug. 17, 2012. New students must also take the placement tests before registering.

NMC offers several degree and certificate programs, including a bachelor of science degree in education (emphasis on elementary education, early childhood education, special education, or rehabilitation and human services), associate degrees in business, business administration (emphasis on accounting, business management, or computer applications), liberal arts, nursing, natural resources management, criminal justice, and hospitality management. Moreover, it offers short-term certificate programs in different vocational, academic, and professional areas.

For more information about applying to NMC or about the fall 2012 semester, contact the NMC Office of Admissions & Records at 234-5498 Ext. 1528/1540 or email oar@nmcnet.edu. For additional information, log on to www.nmcnet.edu. ***(NMC)***

Youth Speak! on heritage at Pacific arts festival

HONIARA, Solomon Islands—Youth delegates from around the Pacific discussed heritage at a regional workshop held last week during the 11th Festival of Pacific Arts in Honiara, Solomon Islands.

Titled *Youth Speak!*, "the main purpose of the workshop was to get young people's views heard on the topics of culture, heritage and environment," said Tarisi Vunidilo, Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Museum Association, which organized the event in collaboration with the International Council on Monuments and Sites.

"In the Pacific, youth are often put on the sidelines," said Vunidilo. "PIMA decided that at this year's festival we would give them due consideration."

Presentations from regional experts and interactive sessions focused on aspects of heritage including world, natural, and cultural heritage. A key issue to emerge from the three-day workshop was the impact of climate change on environment and culture.

Of her experience Elsei Tellei, a 19-year-old college student from Palau, said, "I hadn't realized how many different aspects there are to preserving our culture and heritage. It can seem really intimidating but we've discussed different action plans so it'll be a little easier."

Tellei plans to file a report with her country's youth council, adding: "It really inspires me to preserve our culture so that people in the future can have the same experience as we did at this festival—it wouldn't be the same without all the different people and unique cultures coming together."

Rameka Alexander-Tu'inukuafe, a 24-year-old architecture student from New Zealand, says he learned about the role of culture in sustainable infrastructure and development.

"We can develop economically but not step on culture and heritage," he said. "Instead, they should be the main drivers of everything we do in the Pacific."

SPC

Youth participants pose with Tarisi Vunidilo, right, Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Museum Association.

The workshop also acknowledged the World Heritage Convention, which in its 40th year is celebrating sustainable development and the role of local communities.

Administered by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, or UNESCO, the World Heritage Convention is the most widely accepted international treaty for cultural and heritage preservation in the world.

In the Pacific, Palau's Rock Islands, renowned for their ecological diversity, coral reefs, marine lakes and limestone islands, were recently awarded World Heritage status.

Throughout the workshop, participants expressed interest in building their knowledge and skills in preserving heritage said Vunidilo, noting, "They want to be included but often don't know how."

She said the sessions presented by regional experts had shown pathways to working in the sector and resulted in greater appreciation of the role of museums in preserving heritage and also in repatriating Pacific cultural objects held by overseas museums.

At the end of workshop, participants expressed interest in volunteering with their national libraries and museums, with the two Nauru representatives planning to work with their communities to establish the first local museum, with support from Palau's Minister for Community and Culture and former national museum director, Faustina Rehuher-Marugg, who was one of the presenters.

To keep the discussion on heritage going and maintain links formed at the workshop, the organizers will set up a Facebook page and include participants in grassroots training currently being held in a number of countries to document traditions and cultural heritage.

The participants (all under 30 years of age) from Australia, Federated States of Micronesia, French Polynesia, Fiji, Hawaii, Kiribati, Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, and Vanuatu were chosen based on their experience in working with elders, community, culture, and heritage.

Youth Speak! was organized in collaboration with a number of regional and international organizations including the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, UNESCO and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme.

SPC currently hosts the secretariat for the Pacific Youth Council, which provides much needed support for youth development in the region. ***(Secretariat of the Pacific Community)***

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

July 10, 2000

Clinton's economic plan for CNMI readied

A report will be released this week detailing a package of economic initiatives that will be put in place by the Clinton administration in the CNMI and other U.S. territories in a bid to improve the islands' living standards. Office of Insular Affairs Director Ferdinand Aranza on Thursday briefed Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio about the forthcoming report and gave him an update on the so-called President Clinton's Interagency Group on Insular Areas (IGIA). The group, formed in August 1999 and comprised of senior White House officials and the governors of the CNMI, Guam, American Samoa and U.S. Virgin Islands, has come up with the package aimed at assisting each of the islands' economy.

Lack of funds worries DPS on creation of civilian volunteer unit

Public Safety Commissioner Charles W. Ingram Jr. is seeking an overhaul of a proposed measure which seeks to establish a Civilian Volunteer Police on the island. In a letter to Rep. Dino M. Jones, chair of the Judiciary and Government Operations Committee, Mr. Ingram said the program under HB 12-197 should instead be called Police Reserve Program as he requested that legislation which attempts to control the administration of the program be scrapped. While the intent of having a reserve police officer program is commendable, Mr. Ingram said such effort is not feasible at this time due to lack of necessary funds. The cost of training and equipment meant for a Reserve Unit would be better used for either pay raises for the Department of Public Safety or increase in hazard pay.

July 10, 2001

House panel supports CHC's nursing needs

House Health and Welfare Committee Chair Malua T. Peter pledged support to the Department of Public Health's request for funds needed to hire additional nurses for the public hospital. This, after the health department voiced out the need for additional $2 million to support its nursing program, particularly in the hiring of off-island nurses. However, Peter said she would have to clarify with authorities some concerns related to the hiring of nurses, as well as the hospital's current manpower needs.

Northern Islands' development plan backed

The Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council urged Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio to fast-track the implementation of the Northern Islands Development Plan. The Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council threw its support to long-term development plans laid down by Mayor Joseph T. Ogumoro through a resolution it adopted last week. Ogumoro has been actively campaigning to promote economic development in the Northern Islands, in preparation for the eventual resettlement of its residents.

July 10, 2002

Pollution blamed in Smiling Cove fishkill

Days after the continuous heavy downpour brought by typhoon Chata'an, the Department of Lands and Natural Resources said there was a massive fishkill on the waters off the Smiling Cove Marina on Saipan. DLNR Secretary Tom Pangelinan disclosed this, adding that the fishkill may have been caused by pollution of the waters. Pangelinan said the department and the Division of Environmental Quality are conducting an assessment of the extent of the fishkill and its cause. "A lot of dead fish and crabs are surfacing. The marina is polluted," Pangelinan said. "Our biologist at Fish and Wildlife is now doing a study, assessing the damages and also what causes [the fishkill]."

Use of PCB-treated soil to cover dump OK'd

The Division of Environmental Quality permitted the Department of Public Works to use PCB-treated soil as daily cover for the Puerto Rico dumpsite. This was learned from Michelle Rogow, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's on-scene coordinator detailed at the PCB treatment site in Tanapag. Earlier, the DEQ sought the assistance of the EPA, regarding the plan to use the treated soil to cover the decades-old dumpsite. It was Rogow who penned the opinion of the agency on the plan, stating that treated soil would be suitable for daily cover for the dump. The Saipan Tribune tried to reach the DEQ office yesterday afternoon but its public information officer, Rebecca Snider, was not immediately available for further information.

Island Snapshots

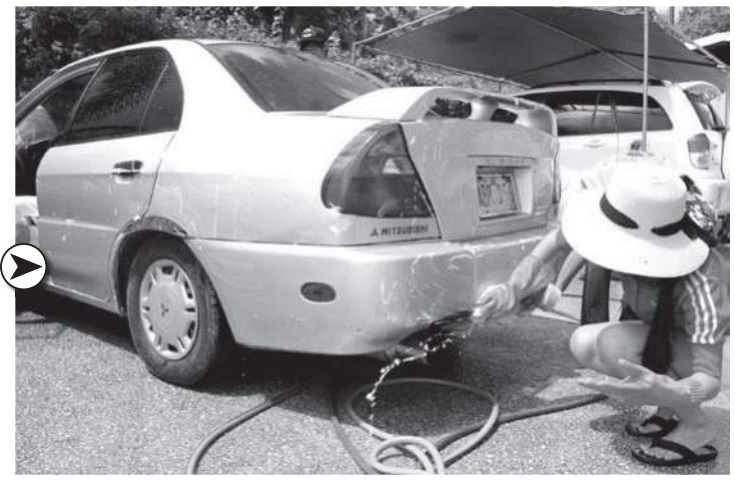
MANTA BAND FUNDRAISER

Members of the Saipan Southern High School's Manta Ray Band participate in a car wash with the Saipan Marianas Lions Club at the parking lot of McDonald's on Middle Road on Sunday to help raise funds for the band's trip to London later this month to perform at the 2012 London Olympics.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Members of the Saipan Southern High School's Manta Ray Band and Saipan Marianas Lions Club jointly hold a car wash fundraiser for the band's trip to London to perform at the 2012 London Olympics.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



A member of the Saipan Southern High School's Manta Ray Band washes a car to help raise funds for the band's London trip.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

A member of the Saipan Southern High School's Manta Ray Band at a car wash fundraiser.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

MEMORIAL RITES

Saipan Municipal Council R.B. Camacho, left, and Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz, second from left, are among the government officials at the memorial ceremony for the late former chief justice Miguel Demapan at Guma Hustisia in Susupe on Friday. Demapan was laid to rest yesterday.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Superior Court associate judge Perry Inos, center, shakes hands with one of the sons of the late former chief justice Miguel Demapan during the memorial ceremony at Guma Hustisia in Susupe on Friday.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, right, and Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, second from right, share a light moment during the memorial ceremony for the late former chief justice Miguel Demapan at Guma Hustisia in Susupe on Friday. Demapan was laid to rest yesterday.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Saipan Marianas Lions Club president Apollo Madriaga, right, leads the car wash fundraiser to help finance Saipan Southern High School's Manta Ray Band's upcoming trip to London to perform at the 2012 London Olympics.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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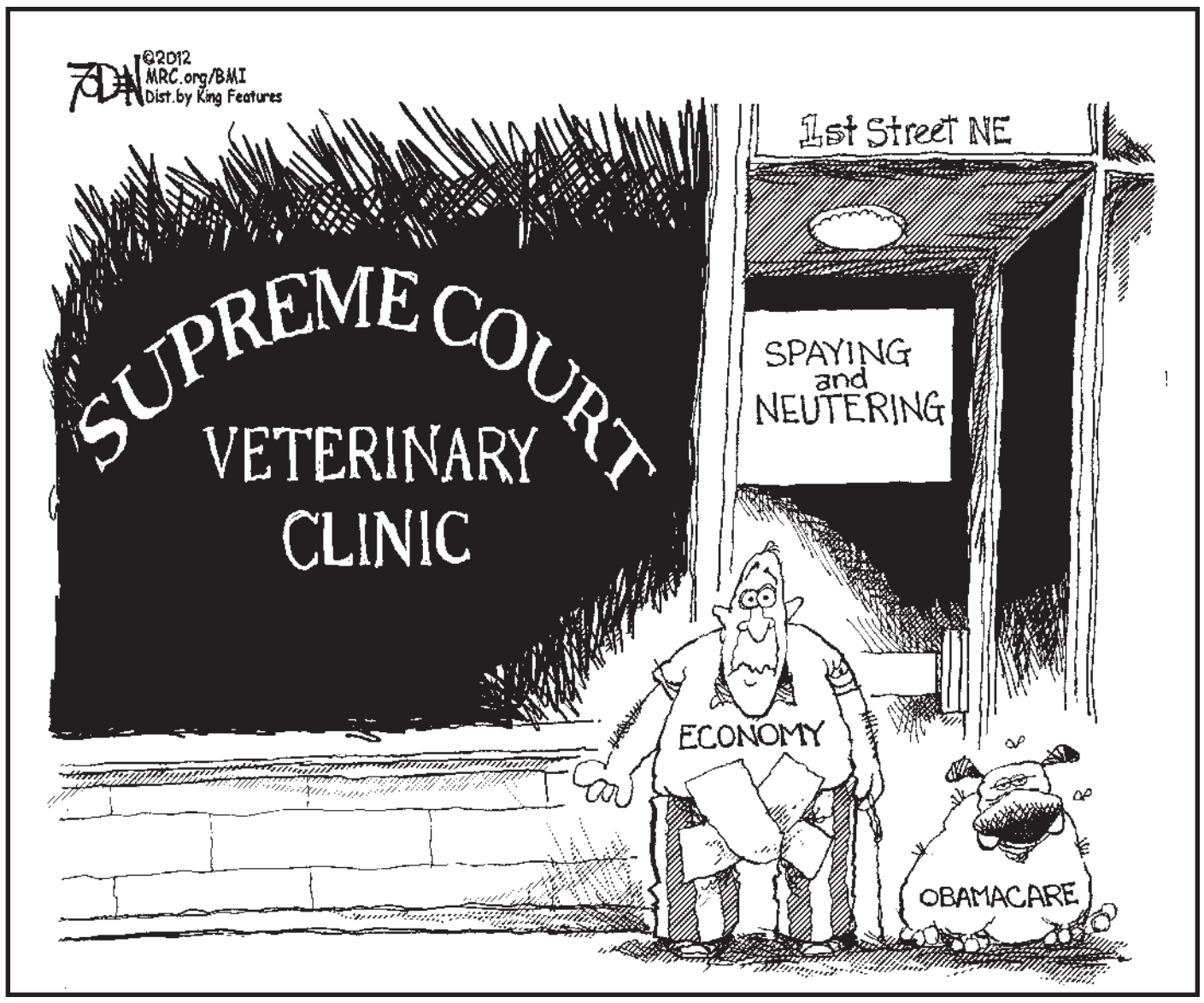

EDITORIAL

Mixed messages on Islam in Egypt

The following editorial appeared in the Dallas Morning News *on Friday, July 6.*

Egypt's new president, Mohamed Morsi, must waste no time establishing a strong leadership position that puts the law—secular law—first in the public's mind as his country's democratic transition proceeds. If Morsi doesn't act quickly and firmly, Egypt risks sliding into Islamist turmoil and inviting the military to restore dictatorial rule.

An isolated incident Sunday in the city of Suez illustrates the depth of Morsi's challenge. Three bearded civilian men, identified as Islamists, approached a man walking in a park with his fiancée, demanding to know the couple's marital status. After the man reportedly told them it was none of their business, a fight ensued. He was fatally stabbed.

The Islamists apparently believed it was their job to enforce an unwritten religious code banning relations between unmarried men and women. Three suspects are under arrest.

Their actions coincided with last weekend's inauguration of Morsi, a member of the Islamist Muslim Brotherhood. Morsi insists he will protect the rights of women and religious minorities. But he also pledges to seek the freedom of an Egyptian Muslim cleric imprisoned in the United States for instigating the 1993 bomb attack on the World Trade Center in New York. Morsi is soon to meet with the Islamist Palestinian leader of Gaza's militant Hamas movement.

These messages are mixed, muddled and worrisome at a time when Egypt's leadership needs specificity and clarity.

Egyptians are looking to Morsi for guidance as the nation transitions to democracy. Lines of power remain sketchy between the president, the military, a suspended Parliament and a military-backed judiciary. It's unclear whose law governs the country. The risk is high that devout Muslims will see an Islamist in the presidency as their mandate to impose Islamic law on the streets.

It takes little time in such situations for the constitution to take a back seat to religious vigilantism. That's how the Taliban solidified control in Afghanistan in the 1990s.

Women across Egypt are seeing a rise in attacks by such vigilantes. Christian and liberal-minded Muslim women say their rights are being trampled upon amid the religious fervor. This is exactly why many in Egypt's Coptic Christian community, which comprises 10 percent of the population, were reluctant to cheer after former President Hosni Mubarak was ousted from power last year.

Egypt's military leadership has made clear it will not permit the country to become a backward Islamist theocracy. It is up to Morsi to stay ahead of the military—as well as religious zealots—by establishing in the clearest possible language that he, as the civilian president, will not tolerate anything short of the rule of law.

Egypt made the right choice by embracing democracy. The hard work is still ahead to ensure democratic freedoms don't give birth to a new form of tyranny.

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Black gold in South China Sea

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara (jrvergarajr2031@aol.com) previously taught at San Vicente Elementary School on Saipan and is currently a guest lecturer at Shenyang Aerospace University in China.

It was at the LAX airport two years ago on our way to SFO from HNL that I noticed my seatmate in the waiting room reading a Chinese newspaper. I asked where in China he was from. He gave me a noticeably mean look and huffily declared: "I am not Chinese; I am Vietnamese!"

Vietnam, previously known as Namyue, the people of the South (Nam) also known in China as Yuenan, had its language written in Chinese characters until 1945 when its rulers, with French support, started writing in the Vietnamese written language. With China's island province of Hainan (Hai = sea, nan = south) in the gulf of Tonkin and Yunnan, the southernmost province of China, near Yuenan, these tell a lot about the ethnicity and relationship of Vietnam to China.

Though independent from direct Chinese rule since the end of the first millennium on the Gregorian calendar, the Kinh/Lac people that constitutes more than 80 percent of Vietnam are kin to the people of South China. With the French under Vichy rule during WWII, Vietnam was handed over to Axis partner Japan but Ho Chi Minh made sure that Vietnam and the rest of French Indochina would not revert back to France after WWII hostilities.

In any case, however we read the history of the islands, except for a brief eyeing of France over the Spratleys (Nansha to the Chinese) and Parecels (Xisha to the Chinese), a 1958 communiqué from North Vietnam to China's Zhou Enlai, affirmed that both island group are territories of China. Historically, the islands of the South China Sea were recognized by the surrounding sovereign states as belonging to China, save for European and U.S. intrusion that salivated over the prospects of carving out mainland China.

When oil deposits were discovered in the South China Sea, the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei, and Taiwan suddenly took interest in claiming shoals and islands as part of their sovereign territories. (BTW, the recent confirmation of natural gas in the Cagayan Valley where we spent our youth, and on the ocean slopes on the Pacific side of the Cordilleras, has enough to keep the Philippine National Oil Company busy and prosperous awhile.)

Too preoccupied with its internal survival since the '50s, China had not developed anything on both island groups until the new claimants started building resident presence in the territories. After a war with Vietnam in the '90s, China finally created a city in the Paracels, which is a part of Hainan.

Western oil companies have heretofore undertaken China's offshore drilling, particularly in Bohai facing Tianjin and Huanghai by Qingdao, and the coast close to Shanghai. Like Japan that quickly appropriated Western technology in its industrialization, China developed its own drilling capability, and is now ready to drill in what it considers its sovereign territories in its continental shelf.

With peak oil (the point where the production of oil from known reserves plateaus) occurring in 2005 by oil companies' reckoning, the sudden value of the islands of China Sea had gotten a premium rating. Japan even offered to buy one of the uninhabited islands geographically part of the Taiwan group but close to the Ryukyus. Oil remains a strong magnetic pull to sovereign ownership of territories along the continental shelf.

Now we have a proposal (long overdue) from China. In the disputed islands between China and Vietnam, nine lots had been declared open for international drilling by interested investors. Vietnam not too long ago scurried to enter into contracts with drillers to locate oil in claimed territories. The U.S. sides with Western companies operating in claimants' area, and the Philippine Cabinet just went into an emergency session on what to do since they have an active claim on the Spratleys as China recently showed naval muscle along the Scarborough (Haiyuan) shoals close to the Philippines that were briefly occupied by Filipino fishermen.

The U.S. wisely decided to stay neutral on the Haiyuan incident and China's flexed naval muscle is accompanied by a concrete proposal on the table on how claimants, backed by global oil interests, can collaborate in exploring the undersea wealth of the area.

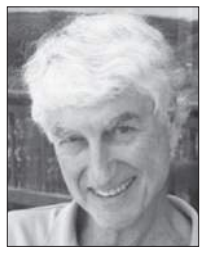
We wrote of the *Jianglong* submersible taking a dive at Challenger Deep in the Marianas Trench, reportedly timed immediately after the successful docking of Shenzhou 8 capsule with the *Tiangong* skylab. U.S. interest in the Marianas intensifies as bases in Korea and Japan are inevitably receding back to the Pacific. China is going solo in its explorations of outer space and the undersea after being shunned by the international community under the instigation of the U.S.

Meanwhile, the laurel of commercial collaboration had just been extended by China whose behavior so far to trust but verify in a basic stance of balance and harmony is out-Reagan-ing the American cowboys. This is potentially good for everyone. It alleviates China's overheated real estate market from further investments, being an overpriced and underperforming asset. It opens investments into a commodity where demand now outstrips supply.

China is offering to dance. Any interested fleet-footed sails out there?

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

A gift: The 'sound and fury' of great literature



By PHILIP WEINSTEIN
The Free Lance-Star (Fredericksburg, Va.)

Philip Weinstein is professor of English at Swarthmore College. He teaches modern comparative literature and is the author of several books on Faulkner and his contemporaries. The Society for the Study of Southern Literature chose his most recent—Becoming Faulkner (Oxford 2010)—as the best book on Southern literature. He wrote this for The Free Lance-Star *in Fredericksburg, Va.*

SWARTHMORE, Pa.—William Faulkner's best novels show what it is like to live through baffling experience—experience that you can't sort out while it is crashing into you. They do more than "show" this, they enact it on the page. Attending to him responsively creates in you a kindred experience of bafflement—then of bafflement brought to order. But not brought to order before it registers on you, longer than you like, as bafflement.

You might reply: "Why should I spend time being baffled? I have enough of that in my life already, and I go to novels for coherence, not confusion." Yet our lives are marked, more than we ever admit, by looming questions, uncertain choices, hurdles we hadn't predicted and that won't wait for us to figure them out before taking them on. We spend a lot of time denying this reality, and we are especially good at telling others (and ourselves)—later—what that confusion was really all about.

Later is the key: We make sense later of the confusion that occurs in our present moment whenever it escapes habit or predictability—when the present moment heats up, becomes too stressful, more than we can handle. The bread and butter of novels is to represent this confusion in such a way that, though we're not sure how things will come out, we enjoy the suspense and await the resolution. In other words, confusion domesticated, tamed: configured as we like it—in novels.

Kierkegaard recognized, over 150 years ago, that we live life forward but we understand it backward. He was speaking about our being immersed in time itself: The simple truth that we live our present moments in a sort of confusion continuously being clarified by the retrospective understanding that comes later. Most novelists work to soften this opposition between now and later, to blur its sharpness. Most novelists are fun to read because they tidy up experience, give it a recognizable developing shape. They make experience fitting, and we feel smart as we take in the gracefulness of what is taking shape.

Faulkner's best novels refuse such tidiness. In its place they give us "sound and fury"—the sound and fury of experience unmastered, not yet graced by retrospective understanding. Faulkner grasped that we are born into a family and into a culture that hardly waited for our entry to bristle with motives and complications of every sort. We are born innocent, but the surrounding world into which we are born is never innocent. Nor, we discover later—because we live ineluctably in that surrounding world's blind spots and complicities—are we. We spend much of our lives figuring out what was actually happening to us and around us, but that we never grasped at the time.

Why do we need to be reminded, even today, of this unwanted truth about our lives in time? My answer is that—given the technological gadgetry that modulates our current behavior and connects us in nanoseconds with anyone anywhere on the globe—we need more than ever to realize that the world is not our oyster, not a manipulable extension of our desires.

In a recent essay comparing our relation to today's array of gadgets with our love relations, Jonathan Franzen writes the following: "(O)ur technology has become extremely adept at creating products that correspond to our fantasy ideal of an erotic relationship, in which the beloved object asks for nothing and gives everything, instantly, and makes us feel all-powerful, and doesn't throw terrible scenes when it's replaced by an even sexier object and is consigned to a drawer."

Franzen concludes that "the ultimate goal of (such) technology is to replace a natural world that's indifferent to our wishes—a world of hurricanes and hardships and breakable hearts; a world of resistance—with a world so responsive to our wishes as to be, effectively, a mere extension of the self."

Faulkner's great work reawakens in us, tonically and frustratingly, the sheer recalcitrance of the world—its resistance, its difference from our desires. His work does this most powerfully by immersing us, as readers, in narratives of experience whose key we do not possess, whose contours we do not at first recognize: narrative worlds it takes a lot of time to make familiar, more time than we like. To be in time, such work reminds us, is to be not-expert, not-wise, not yet.

To be in time is to be, when things go bad, in a darkness that we trust will become light again. Faulkner's best novels take us into this darkness, not out of cruelty, and with no intent of leaving us there. When the light finally comes, and in his great work it always does come, we realize all the more powerfully how precious the light is. 50 years after his death and 75 years after his greatest novels, that is why Faulkner is more than ever worth reading.

Chief justice is not a neutral umpire

By LINDA P. CAMPBELL
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

Linda P. Campbell is a columnist and editorial writer for the Fort Worth Star-Telegram*. Readers may write to her at 400 W. 7th Street, Fort Worth, Texas 76102, or via email at lcampbell@star-telegram.com.*

Chief Justice John Roberts is brilliant and quotable.

That doesn't necessarily make him right.

Plenty of reports about his majority opinion upholding the constitutionality of the Affordable Care Act picked up this pithy gem: "It is not our job to protect the people from the consequences of their political choices."

It's a terrific sound bite.

It sounds like judicial restraint—a good thing, especially if you're a conservative who preaches such a "modest" approach to judging.

But it reminds me of his analogy about justices just being umpires calling balls and strikes neutrally, not swaying the outcome of the game.

Too simplistic, not an entirely accurate description of what they do and certainly not what happened here.

Yes, it's a fine balancing act, but there are times when the court's duty under the Constitution is to save us from misguided political choices.

In Loving v. Virginia (bit.ly/1zLYIm), the court said equal protection guarantees prohibit states from criminalizing interracial marriages, even though Virginia and 15 other states as recently as 1967 still did such an unjustifiable thing.

Decades earlier, in Pierce v. Society of Sisters (bit.ly/MGsIkw), the court in 1925 said that, even though states can require minors to attend school, Oregon couldn't prevent parents from choosing a private school education for their children.

And then in Griswold v. Connecticut in 1965 (bit.ly/ztXSEm), the court said states can't unduly intrude into married couples' most intimate decisions about using contraception.

It's not as though the Roberts court hasn't on occasion decided it knows better than the people's elected representatives. Citizens United v. FEC, anyone? That's the 2010 ruling that gutted campaign finance limits crafted largely by Sens. John McCain, R-Ariz., and Russ Feingold, D-Ill., approved by Congress and signed into law by President George W. Bush.

If what Roberts meant with his language on the Affordable Care Act was that the court shouldn't be striking down laws just because a bare majority of justices wouldn't have voted for them had they been legislators, he's absolutely right. His understanding of that could be a major reason Roberts broke with the other justices appointed by Republican presidents and wrote for the majority that the provisions of the healthcare law fall within Congress's constitutional authority to levy taxes.

Roberts could hardly have made his dislike for the health insurance law plainer in NFIB v. Sebelius (bit.ly/M8yRq6).

"We do not consider whether the Act embodies sound policies. That judgment is entrusted to the Nation's elected leaders," he wrote on page 2.

Then he expounded at length on how the law didn't pass muster under the commerce clause because it would let Congress compel citizens to do just about anything, even—horrors!—to buy vegetables: "That is not the country the Framers of our Constitution envisioned," he wrote on page 23.

And as an exclamation point, he summed up with this on page 59: "The Framers created a Federal Government of limited powers, and assigned to this Court the duty of enforcing those limits. The Court does so today. But the Court does not express any opinion on the wisdom of the Affordable Care Act. Under the Constitution, that judgment is reserved to the people."

For his careful work, Roberts has been painted as everything from a liberal darling to a political genius to a turncoat to a sniveler who caved to The New York Times.

CBS News' Jan Crawford even reported an account from unnamed inside sources saying Roberts had switched sides then resisted Justice Anthony Kennedy's strenuous lobbying efforts to stay with the four other who really wanted to overturn the entire law. (cbsn.ws/KULhRr)

If justices used the cloak of journalistic anonymity to spin their version of events to their advantage, then they're not only playing politics, they're doing it ham-handedly and not nearly as well as the chief.

He appears to have shrewdly, strategically positioned to get his way: He deferred to congressional power to tax with one hand, but with the other laid the groundwork for constraining the regulation of interstate commerce. And that's an open invitation to those who have long wanted to rein it in.

And that stuff about judicial modesty and letting the people decide?

Don't look for it when the affirmative action case involving the University of Texas comes up next term.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

I am the 'man'

I had this big dream for the people of CNMI. I really can't remember whether I concocted this over a cigar living in a fantasy world as opposed to the real world. It was exciting for me to have the opportunity to serve the people of the CNMI after being voted into office. In fact, friends, relatives and my constituencies were all excited as well.

I raised my right hand and swore that I will serve in the best interest of the people based on the Constitution and the laws of the land. I also promised that I will make life better for the people of the CNMI based on the ideology I sought during my campaign days. I knew that the economy was getting worse, but was stuck between a "rock and hard place" because I need to fulfill my promise to specific supporters that I will hire them once in office. I am great in finding and collecting dues from vendors and also do well in controlling spending from one entity but spending it double figure on another. I learned, however, that I am not that good in coughing up innovative plans to jump-start the economy.

I looked for improvement in our tourism industry from far seas such as China, Russia, and Korea but failed to put in a share of hard work in reviving the very market that had helped us develop our economy among others, the Japanese market. To date, I have no solid and good outcome as a result of my effort.

Who and what are the people waiting for in order to develop programs that will ignite the improvement of the economy that will surely improve the life of the weak, the poor, the innocent and the disadvantaged working class?

I need a team action plan that are results oriented and not just mine. I need to sit down with majority and minority and share some points and strategy that might lead to ideas. At this frustrating moment, any ideas are needed. I have to get of the notion that I am the "man," and that people should shut up and listen to me. I must be willing to provide a more democratic and diplomatic approach as a leader. I must stop the injustices, if not power and greed, that is causing more strain in the economy. I must choose the most qualified to perform even if they did not vote for me. I must stop believing that I am a leader with a "few good men" concept. It is not working out at all.

Remember me, as we journey toward our destination. Remember the people that I am supporting as well. Experience the ride of your life, especially those caused by selfishness led by my pride and arrogance. Let me not be humbled, humiliated, and respectful to the poor, disadvantaged, weak, and innocent people. Let me continue not to care about empathy and compassion while serving you but allow me to be the "man" and not as your elected official. I am your best candidate. See you on Election Day. Prepare for victory.

Alfred A. Pangelinan
Dandan, Saipan

The Weather

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 5 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 5 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88º ▼78º	▲88 º ▼78º	▲88º ▼78º	▲88º ▼78º	▲88º ▼78º

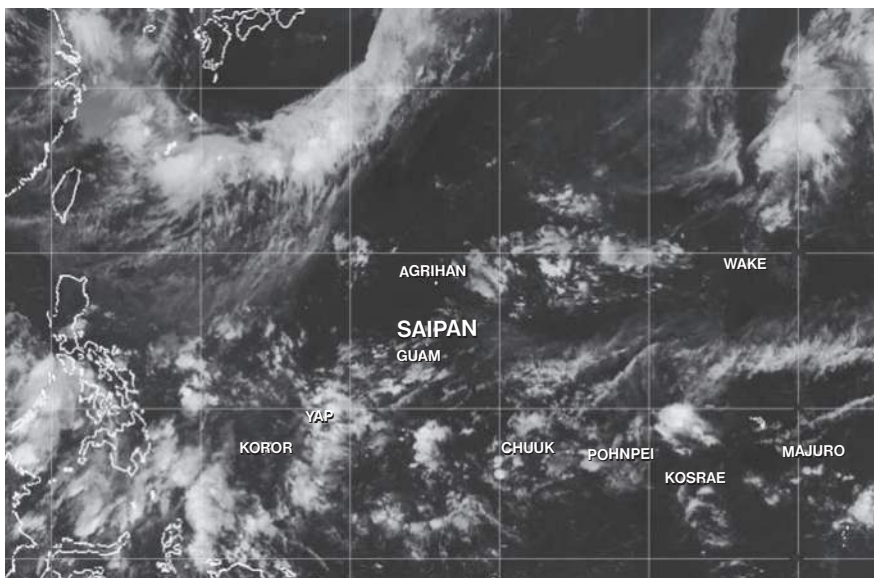
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼80
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼76
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼78
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼78
Pohnpei	Showers	▲89	▼76
Kosrae	Showers	▲89	▼76
Majuro	Showers	▲87	▼81

Around The Globe

Auckland	Sunny	▲58	▼42
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲87	▼72
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲90	▼83
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲85	▼73
London	Showers	▲67	▼57
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲83	▼64
Manila	Thundershowers	▲88	▼79
Melbourne	Showers	▲54	▼48
Miami	Thundershowers	▲89	▼78
New York	Partly Cloudy	▲86	▼68
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲85	▼72
Paris	Showers	▲69	▼59
Pusan	Cloudy	▲80	▼73
Rome	Sunny	▲93	▼71
Salem	Sunny	▲85	▼53
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲66	▼52
Seoul	Thundershowers	▲84	▼72
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼71
Washington, DC	Thundershowers	▲86	▼74

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, JULY 9, 2012
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

An upper-level low is centered northwest of Guam at 16N143E. Isolated thunderstorms associated with the low are seen near Guam within 125 miles of a line from 13N141E to 13N145E. A surface trough extends northward from 1N139E to 8N137E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found across Yap state within 135 miles of a line from 4N137E to 11N139E. Converging surface winds are generating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms southwest of Koror west of a line from 6N132E to EQ136E. Converging trades are producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms northeast of Pohnpei within 125 miles of a line from 9N160E to 9N164E and east of Majuro east of a line from 11N177E to 1N172E. An upper-level trough curves northeastward from the upper low at 16N143E to beyond 25N167E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are present west of Wake Island within 125 miles of a line from 19N145E to 20N160E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

1:18 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
8:04 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet
1:23 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.4 Feet
7:29 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:53 AM	6:52 PM
Wednesday	5:53 AM	6:52 PM
Thursday	5:54 AM	6:51 PM
Friday	5:54 AM	6:51 PM
Saturday	5:54 AM	6:51 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	11:34 PM	11:29 AM
Wednesday		12:17 PM
Thursday	12:13 AM	1:06 PM
Friday	12:53 AM	1:55 PM
Saturday	1:36 AM	2:44 PM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 7, 2012

DEPARTURES

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA5062	2:40am	3:10am	1, 3, 5

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 3, 5
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA5074	11:30am	12:20pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily
UA5078	6:50pm	7:40pm	Daily
UA5072	9:55pm	10:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:05am	8:45am	Daily
DL297	4:35pm	7:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily

SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	10:00pm	Daily via NRT
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	Daily via GUM
UA5076/193	3:10pm	10:25pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
OZ604/703	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN
UA5072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50pm	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA5076/147	3:10pm	9:45pm	1, 5 via GUM

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA5062	3:40am	5:40am	1, 3, 5 via SPN

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)

UA5062	3:40am	4:15am	1, 3, 5

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA5062	2:40am	4:15am	1, 3, 5 via ROP
UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5071	7:10am	8:00am	Daily
UA5073	10:05am	10:55am	Daily
UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5077	5:25pm	6:15pm	Daily
UA5079	8:35pm	9:25pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:15pm	12:50am+1	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

DL172/288	7:50am	12:50am+1	Daily via NRT
UA190/5077	10:55am	6:15pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/5079	10:55am	9:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA5071	10:10pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA192/5071	9:45pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/5071	11:25pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM
OZ704/603	11:40pm	2:20pm+1	Daily via ICN

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
UA180/5071	10:35pm	8:00am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

Business

Internet providers bracing for calls about malware

WASHINGTON (AP)—Internet providers have plans to help their customers Monday and others are braced for calls to helplines because thousands around the country whose computers were infected with malicious software more than a year ago faced the possibility of not being able to get online.

Internet users scanning their Twitter feeds or Facebook accounts Sunday were encouraged to add one more quick click to check their computer for malware.

Some providers may put technical solutions in place that will correct the server problem that could hit some computers after midnight EDT Sunday. It they do, the Internet will work, but the malware will remain on victims' computers and could pose future problems, said Tom DeGrasso, an FBI supervisory special agent.

After midnight EDT Sunday, the FBI was shutting down the Internet servers set up as a temporary safety net to keep infected computers online for the past eight months. The court order the agency obtained to keep the servers running expired, and it was not renewed.

The problem began when international hackers ran an online advertising scam to take control of more than 570,000 infected computers around the world. When the FBI went in to take down the hackers late last year, agents realized that if they turned off the malicious servers being used to control the computers, all the victims would lose their Internet service.

In a highly unusual move, the FBI set up the safety net. The bureau brought in a private company to install two clean Internet servers to take over for the malicious servers so that people would not suddenly lose their Internet.

The FBI arranged for a private company to run a website—http://www.dcwg.org—as a place where computer users could go to see if their computer was infected and find links to other computer security business sites where they could find fixes for the problem.

From the onset, most victims didn't even know their computers were infected, although the malicious software probably has slowed their web surfing and disabled their antivirus software, making their machines more vulnerable to other problems.

Many computer users don't understand the complex machines they use every day to send email, shop, and cruise for information. The cyberworld of viruses, malware, bank fraud and Internet scams is often distant and confusing, and warning messages may go unseen or unheeded.

Also, some people simply don't trust the government, and believe that federal authorities are only trying to spy on them or take over the Internet. Blogs and other Internet forums are riddled with postings warning of the government using the malware as a ploy to breach American citizens' computers. That's a charge the FBI and other cybersecurity experts familiar with the malware quickly denounce as ridiculous.

Still, the Internet is flooded with conspiracy theories:

"I think the FBI just wants everyone to go to that website to check our computers so they can check our computers as well. Just a way to steal data for their own research," one computer user said in a posting on the Internet.

Another observed: "Yet another ploy to get everyone freaked out ... remember Y2K."

There is an underlying sense that this will be much ado about nothing, such as the approach of 2000. The transition to that year presented technical problems and fears that some computers would stop working because they were not set up for the date change. In the end there were very few problems.

Considering there are millions of Internet users across the country, several thousand isn't a big deal, unless you're one of them.

Rep. Jim Langevin, D-R.I., and co-founder of Congress' cybersecurity caucus, said computer users have a responsibility to practice good sense and make sure their computers are not infected or being hijacked by criminals.

China's premier warns of further economic slowdown

BEIJING (AP)—China's economy faces "huge pressure" to slow further despite stimulus measures, Premier Wen Jiabao said Sunday, damping hopes for a quick recovery from the deepest slump since the 2008 global financial crisis.

Companies and investors are closely watching the world's second-largest economy for signs of a further slowdown which could have global repercussions by hurting Chinese demand for goods from the United States, Europe and other struggling economies.

"The economy is running at a generally stable pace, but there is still huge pressure for it to go downward," the official Xinhua News Agency paraphrased Wen, the country's top economic official, as saying during a weekend visit to eastern China.

The government has cut interest rates twice in a month, reduced gasoline prices and promised more spending on low-cost housing and other public works to revive growth that fell to a nearly three-year low of 8.1 percent in the first quarter.

Despite that, forecasters expect data due out this week to show that growth fell as low as 7.3 percent in the second quarter.

The slowdown raises the risk of job losses and unrest at a politically awkward time for the ruling Communist Party. It is trying to enforce calm ahead of a once-a-decade handover of power to younger leaders.

In his weekend remarks, Wen said government measures to boost economic growth were showing results, Xinhua reported. "The economic slowdown is tending toward stability," Xinhua paraphrased him as saying.

The government is trying to reduce reliance on exports and investments to drive growth by boosting domestic consumption. Wen said that is Beijing's "fundamental standpoint" to improve the economy.

He said the government also is trying to diversify and promote stable export growth. The government has set a 10 percent growth target this year for trade, which the Commerce Ministry has said is achievable, barring unexpected setbacks in Europe or elsewhere.

Wen promised to "fine-tune economic policies," according to Xinhua, but no details or new initiatives were reported. He said the government will press ahead with changes in the tax system that should reduce the burden on many taxpayers, but gave no timetable.

On the same visit, Wen also vowed that the recent interest rate cut aimed at stimulating economic growth will not ignite a new bout of real estate speculation that would push up housing costs, state media said.

Wen ordered local officials on Saturday to enforce rules aimed at cooling a surge in housing prices and called for those who tried to evade curbs to be punished, Xinhua reported.

AP

Norton's Internet Security 2012 software for computer security on display at Best Buy in Mountain View, Calif., Friday, July 6, 2012.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Environmentalists worry about shark overfishing

ROME (AP)—A pro-environment group says the world's shark populations are in worse trouble than previously thought. The Pew Environment Group is cautioning in a report that the actual global catch of sharks might be up to four times higher than official U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization statistics. The report says Hong Kong's shark fin market accounts for about half of the global trade. The report's official release is timed for Monday, when representatives of many governments will be attending a fisheries committee meeting at the Rome-based U.N. food agency. AP obtained a copy of the report Sunday.

Seoul central bank: NKorean economy grew last year

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—The central bank in Seoul says North Korea's economy grew for the first time in three years, thanks to a boost in agricultural production. The Bank of Korea in South Korea said Sunday that the North's gross domestic product grew 0.8 percent in 2011. The bank credits favorable weather and more use of fertilizer in boosting crop production in North Korea. It estimates the North's gross national income at $28 billion—compared to $1 trillion last year for South Korea. The bank provides annual estimates of the North's economy by analyzing data gathered by South Korean government agencies. Pyongyang has not publicly released detailed economic data for decades.

Bahrain: Losses grow at government investment fund

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—Bahrain's sovereign wealth fund says its annual loss grew to nearly $718 million last year, hurt in part by difficulties at the tiny Gulf nation's airline. The Mumtalakat fund said in an online statement dated Saturday that its consolidated net loss for 2011 was 270.6 million dinars ($717.7 million). That compares with a loss of 234.3 million dinars ($621.3 million) in 2010. Mumtalakat is the holding company for several state-owned businesses, including national airline Gulf Air. It says the money-losing carrier posted a larger operating loss last year because of "the regional geo-political situation and higher fuel costs" significantly affected its operations.

Boeing hopes for year of the Max at air show

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—A big air show is all about bragging rights. It's where airplane makers announce large jet orders, dazzle customers with aerial displays and show off their latest technology.

But a debt crisis in Europe could make the industry more subdued when it gathers at the Farnborough International Airshow near London this week. It's a huge event in the aerospace world, attracting 1,400 exhibitors and aerospace heavyweights such as Boeing, Airbus, Embraer, Bombardier and ATR.

Air travel tracks economic growth, and there isn't much of that right now in Europe, one of the world's largest aircraft markets. Europe's crisis could crimp aircraft sales for Airbus and Boeing, the world's two largest airplane manufacturers. Longer term, there is still plenty of demand from growing airlines in China, India and the rest of the developing world.

Barclays analyst Joseph Campbell expects total orders to fall this year, but not because of the economy. He thinks they'll fall because Boeing and Airbus have a combined backlog of 8,312 planes, and they make roughly 1,000 a year.

Their backlogs are so big, "and the first available slots so far away, that there's not much left to sell" other than Boeing's 737 Max, he says.

For Chicago-based Boeing, this year's show offers a chance for its revamped 737, called the 737 Max, to close a gap with a rival jet. The Max has a more fuel-efficient engine than its predecessor and will compete with Airbus' A320neo, another top-selling plane in the same size range that is getting a new engine. Higher fuel prices mean airlines are willing to pay for more fuel efficiency.

Airbus got a jump on Boeing, offering the neo much earlier. It's already got 1,325 orders from 25 customers. Boeing has orders for 451 Maxes and commitments for more of the planes, which have a list price between $78 million and $102 million.

"This is a year that they need to play catch-up," says Richard Aboulafia, an aerospace analyst for the Teal Group.

Airbus aims to begin delivering the A320neo in 2015. Boeing's 737 MAX will go into production in 2015 and start hauling passengers in in 2017.

Boeing heads to the event with a new chief of commercial aircraft, Ray Conner. Until late June, Conner ran Boeing's sales efforts, so he'll be right at home in Farnborough pitching the Max to potential customers.

Toulouse, France-based Airbus, meanwhile, announced last week that it would build its first airplane factory in the United States. The plant will produce the A320 in Mobile, Ala., starting in 2015, aiming to better compete against Boeing.

Nation

Democrats want Romney to explain offshore accounts

SOUTHAMPTON, N.Y. (AP)—Mitt Romney privately raised millions of dollars from New York's elite on Sunday, as Democrats launched coordinated attacks against the likely Republican presidential nominee, intensifying calls for him to explain offshore bank accounts and release several years of tax returns.

The line of attack, dismissed by the Romney campaign as an "unfounded character assault," follows new reports that raise questions about Romney's personal wealth, which could exceed $250 million. President Barack Obama's re-election campaign is expected to push the strategy throughout the coming week, underscoring their desire to portray Romney as disconnected from the middle-class voters he needs to win the presidency.

"He's the first and only candidate for the president of the United States with a Swiss bank account, with tax shelters, with tax avoidance schemes that involve so many foreign countries," Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill., said on CBS' "Face the Nation." He's one of several high-profile Democrats who spoke out on the Sunday morning news shows.

Romney may have unintentionally helped the Obama campaign.

Republican donors driving Mercedes, Bentleys—and in one case a candy red 2013 Ferrari Spider—crowded into a series of closed-door Romney fundraisers in the Hamptons, New York's exclusive string of waterfront communities on Long Island's South Shore. Wall Street bankers and brokerage house chiefs, among others, make the area their weekend playground. Romney's Hamptons swing follows a weeklong vacation at his lakeside vacation home in New Hampshire.

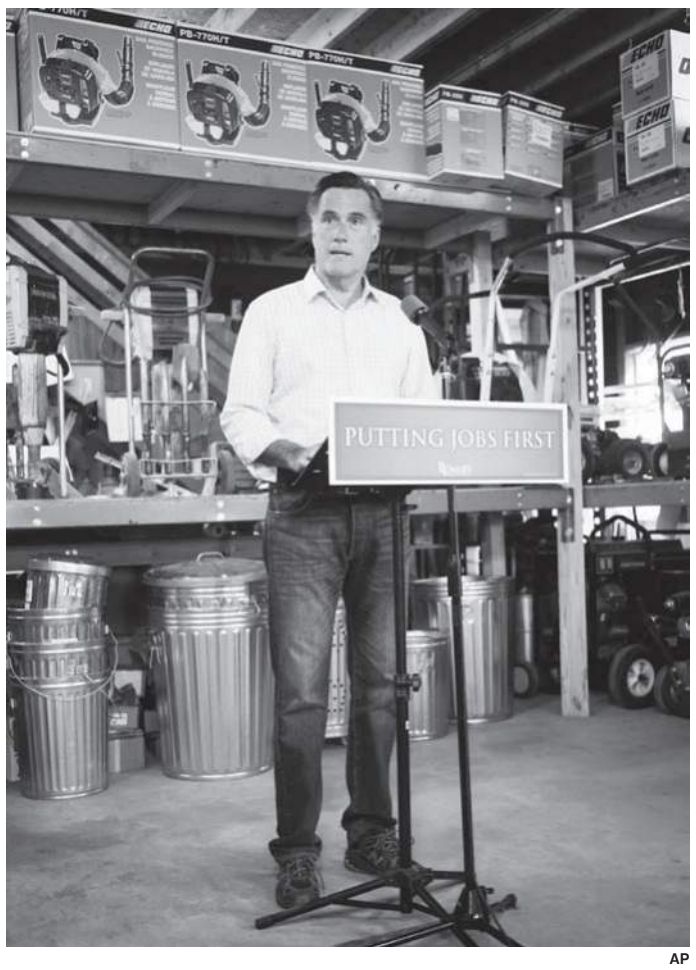
Voters are split on whether they trust Romney or Obama more to run the nation's economy, but a majority says that Obama better understands their concerns.

The Hamptons crowd, however, saw things differently.

"I think he's a plain talking guy," Peter Cohen said, referring to Romney. Cohen, the former Shearson Lehman Brothers chief who now heads his own investment banking firm, made the comment as he chewed a cigar in his black Range Rover outside a Romney fundraiser expected to generate $3 million.

Romney's day concluded at the Southampton estate of billionaire industrialist David Koch, where donors were asked to give $50,000 per person or $75,000 per couple. The event attracted protesters like Robert Shainwald, a 65-year-old retired teacher.

"Romney has no idea what the working person's daily concerns are. How could he?" Shainwald said as he waved a sign offering free vegetables to anyone who wasn't a billionaire.



AP

Republican presidential candidate, former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney speaks about job numbers, Friday, July 6, 2012, at Bradley's Hardware in Wolfeboro, N.H.

Romney would be among the nation's richest presidents if elected. He made his fortune at Bain Capital, a Boston-based private equity firm that has become a key part of the argument for his White House bid. He hasn't drawn a regular paycheck in more than a decade, however, and has instead lived off a series of investments.

But Romney has refused to release more than two years of tax returns that would outline those investments, breaking from a precedent set by his father, former Michigan Gov. George Romney, who released 12 years of his tax returns when he sought the presidency a generation ago. And an Associated Press report recently raised questions about a previously undisclosed Bermuda-based company included in Romney's portfolio until the day before he became Massachusetts governor.

Obama adviser Robert Gibbs said Romney could easily clear up questions about his personal finances if he simply released "a series of years" of returns.

"Mitt Romney's father was the pioneer for releasing a series of tax returns," Gibbs said on CNN's "State of the Union." "The best way to figure out if Mitt Romney is complying with American tax law is to have him release more of his tax returns."

Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal, considered to be in the running for Romney's vice presidential hunt, struggled to defend the offshore financial activity on ABC's "This Week," dismissing the criticism as "a distraction from the Obama campaign." And a Romney spokesman suggested the new attack was inappropriate.

"The Obama campaign's latest unfounded character assault on Mitt Romney is unseemly and disgusting," spokesman Andrea Saul said. "Mitt Romney had a successful career in the private sector, pays every dime of taxes he owes, has given generously to charitable organizations and served numerous causes greater than himself."

The new push by Obama and his allies comes two days after the release of a lackluster jobs report that said the nation's unemployment rate was stuck at 8.2 percent. Romney has been largely focused on the economy throughout his campaign, an issue that voters overwhelmingly report will be on the top of their minds come Election Day.

Some high-profile Republicans have recently criticized Romney for not being specific enough on his economic plans. And some fear that the Republican campaign is not being aggressive enough in defending his business career and personal wealth.

But Romney didn't have to defend his background in the Hamptons.

"This country is about business," said Cohen, the investment banker. "Mitt Romney understands business."

Temperatures across US cool slightly but still hot

NEW YORK (AP)—The heat that blanketed much of the U.S. will begin easing up this week as temperatures approach normal from the Midwest to the East Coast.

Andrew Orrison, a meteorologist for the National Weather Service in Camp Springs, Md., said Sunday night that a cold front through the South and the mid-Atlantic will bring thunderstorms and showers.

It "will break the heat wave we've had," he said, dropping temperatures there to a more normal range of mid- to upper-80s. The Southeast and Tennessee Valley will be in the low 90s, "still fairly warm," Orrison said, but not as hot as it has been.

The Midwest can expect cooler weather, as well, with temperatures in the 80s.

The cooler air began sweeping southward Sunday in the eastern half of the country, bringing down some temperatures by 15 or more degrees from Saturday's highs, which topped 100 in cities including Philadelphia, Washington, St. Louis, Indianapolis and Louisville, Ky.

The heat of the past several days has been blamed for at least 46 deaths across the country.

In Chicago, the Cook County medical examiner's office determined Sunday that eight more people died from heat-related causes, adding to the 10 deaths previously confirmed Saturday. The deaths included a 100-year-old woman, 65-year-old woman, a 53-year-old man, a 46-year-old woman and an unidentified man believed to be about 30 years old.

In Tennessee, the third heat-related death of the year was a 62-year-old woman found dead in her home. She had a working air conditioner, but it was not turned on.

Deaths have also been reported by authorities in Maryland, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin.

To stay cool, Americans tried familiar solutions—dipping into the pool, going to the movies and riding subways just to be in air conditioning.

Gregory Englebach relaxed on a bench Sunday evening near the Starbucks coffee shop in Philadelphia where he'd worked all day, enjoying temperature that had dipped below 90 degrees.

It's the humidity that gets me," said the 24-year-old Englebach. He said he thinks his electric bill has already gone up by $30 or $30 because of his increased use of electricity at home. But he's resigned to it: "It's air conditioning or I can't sleep at night," he said.

Tough ID laws could block thousands of 2012 votes

By MIKE BAKER
ASSOCIATED PRESS

When Edward and Mary Weidenbener went to vote in Indiana's primary in May, they didn't realize that state law required them to bring government photo IDs such as a driver's license or passport.

The husband and wife, both approaching 90 years old, had to use a temporary ballot that would be verified later, even though they knew the people working the polling site that day. Unaware that Indiana law obligated them to follow up with the county election board, the Weidenbeners ultimately had their votes rejected—news to them until informed recently by an Associated Press reporter.

Edward Weidenbener, a World War II veteran who had voted for Mitt Romney in the Republican presidential contest, said he was surprised by the rules and the consequences.

"A lot of people don't have a photo ID. They'll be automatically disenfranchised," he said.

As more states put in place strict voter ID rules, an AP review of temporary ballots from Indiana and Georgia, which first adopted the most stringent standards, found that more than 1,200 such votes were tossed during the 2008 general election.

During sparsely attended primaries this year in Georgia, Indiana and Tennessee, the states implementing the toughest laws, hundreds more ballots were blocked.

The numbers suggest that the legitimate votes rejected by the laws are far more numerous than are the cases of fraud that advocates of the rules say they are trying to prevent. Thousands more votes could be in jeopardy for this November, when more states with larger populations are looking to have similar rules in place.

More than two dozen states have some form of ID requirement, and 11 of those passed new rules over the past two years largely at the urging of Republicans who say they want to prevent fraud.

Democrats and voting rights groups fear that ID laws could suppress votes among people who may not typically have a driver's license, and disproportionately affect the elderly, poor and minorities. While the number of votes is a small percentage of the overall total, they have the potential to sway a close election. Remember that the 2000 presidential race was decided by a 537-vote margin in Florida.

ACROSS THE NATION

Zimmerman at 'safe house' in central Florida

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—The neighborhood watch leader charged with fatally shooting Trayvon Martin is in a safe house that is being protected by his security team. George Zimmerman was released Friday after posting bail for the second time on a second-degree murder charge. His attorney said Sunday he was in Seminole County in central Florida. Some of Martin's supporters have been angry Zimmerman was not arrested until 46 days after the February shooting, and Zimmerman has received death threats. He was released from jail after his defense fund helped him post 10 percent of the $1 million bond.

Man dies when raft capsizes off Washington coast

ILWACO, Wash. (AP)—A 55-year-old Seattle area man has died after his inflatable raft capsized in the ocean in southwest Washington. Pacific County Sheriff Scott Johnson said Sunday that John Beaumeir of Woodinville was rafting with a friend in the surf off of Benson Beach at Cape Disappointment State Park when their raft capsized several times in the rough waters. The two managed to get back on board, but the raft capsized again and partially deflated. Beaumeir became separated from his friend, 28-year-old Israel Anderson, who managed to hold onto the raft and paddled to shore Saturday afternoon. A surf rescue team spotted Beaumeir unconscious in the ocean, and rescuers attempted to resuscitate him. He was taken to Ocean Beach Hospital in Ilwaco where he died.

1 killed in shootout at Del. soccer tournament

WILMINGTON, Del. (AP)—Authorities say there was a shootout at a Wilmington park as a soccer tournament was being played. One person was killed and several others were hurt. Capt. Nancy Dietz tells *The News Journal* three men began firing into a crowd at Eden Park and some people in the crowd fired back. The three men fled in a vehicle, but it crashed a few blocks away. One of the men was found in the vehicle and had been shot multiple times. He was later pronounced dead. The other two men fled and were found by police in a nearby vacant lot.

Asia

Philippines may soon own vast gas-rich area

By CATHY YAMSUAN
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

The Philippines will gain 13 million hectares in additional territory, an area slightly smaller than Luzon, should the United Nations approve next year the government's claim on a region off the coast of Isabela and Aurora, Environment Secretary Ramon Jesus Paje said on Monday.

Paje said the undersea region, called Benham Rise, could turn the Philippines into a natural gas exporter because of the area's huge methane deposits.

Studies conducted by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) for the past five years indicate large deposits of methane in solid form, Paje said after a Senate budget hearing.

The government is only awaiting a formal declaration from the UN Convention of the Law of the Sea (Unclos) that Benham Rise is on the country's continental shelf and therefore part of its territory, Paje said.

Legal basis

Once the Unclos establishes that Benham Rise is part of the Philippines, "we would have legal basis to enter into exploration agreements with private companies to explore… (the area's) resources," said Sen. Franklin Drilon, chair of the chamber's finance committee.

Drilon said a favorable Unclos declaration would mean "increasing our territory from present 30 million hectares to possibly 43 million" with the inclusion of Benham Rise.

Discussion over Benham Rise generated excitement especially after Paje said that Philippine representatives were just awaiting one more meeting "to answer questions" before a special Unclos committee.

Only claimant

Paje said there was no reason for the Unclos committee not to issue a decision favorable to the country "since we are the only claimant, unlike in the western side (where the Spratly Islands are)."

"We have submitted a claim under (Unclos) sometime in late 2008. We got a reply from the UN lately (asking us) to answer some questions. They intend to pass a resolution sometime in mid-2012 to approve our claim (that it is) part of the Philippine continental shelf," Paje told reporters after the hearing.

Records showed that the Philippines officially submitted a claim with the UN Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf in New York on April 8, 2009.

Davide submission

Hilario Davide, then Philippine ambassador to the United Nations, filed the country's partial submission with the commission.

The United Nations says the continental shelf is "the seabed and subsoil of the submarine areas that extend beyond its territorial sea" up to 370 km (200 nautical miles) from the archipelagic baseline. An extended continental shelf goes farther than 370 km.

The Philippines claims that Benham Rise is an extension of its continental shelf.

Paje said Benham Rise was within the country's 370-km exclusive economic zone.

American geologist

The environment secretary said an American geologist surnamed Benham discovered the area that was between 40 and 2,000 meters below the waterline in 1933.

"But we are able to define categorically that it is attached to our continental shelf only recently. We have proven (to) Unclos that it is attached. So now the UN is considering it for decision sometime in 2012," Paje said.

He said gas deposits in the area would enable the country to achieve energy sufficiency.

"Benham Rise is very relevant because of its gas deposits (which has been) confirmed particularly by (the) National Mapping Resource Information Agency. It has given us the data that (the area) contains solid methane. We have not explored it but we have found nodules of methane in the surface and this is very important to us," he said.

NATO: 6 service members killed in Afghanistan

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—A bomb in eastern Afghanistan on Sunday killed six NATO service members, on a day where a total of 29 people died from roadside bombs and insurgent attacks.

NATO said the blast was caused by an improvised explosive device but provided no further details about the attack and did not identify the dead service members. The statement said NATO's policy is to allow "national authorities" to give details about the soldiers.

A surge in Afghan and coalition forces during the past two years routed Taliban fighters from many of their strongholds in the south, but the insurgents have stepped up their attacks this summer to take back key areas.

The service members' deaths were the latest on Sunday caused by bombs planted by insurgents along roadsides, paths or mountain tracks.

In addition to the six NATO deaths, bombs and attacks killed 16 Afghan civilians, five policemen and two members of the U.S.-led coalition in southern Afghanistan, Afghan and NATO authorities said.

The civilians, including women and children, were killed in three blasts in Arghistan district, along Afghanistan's border with Pakistan.

Kandahar province spokesman Ahmad Jawed Faisal said one bomb exploded when a minivan ran over it Sunday morning. A second went off when other civilians riding a tractor arrived to help the wounded. A third explosion occurred about two hours later when a civilian vehicle hit a roadside bomb in another area of the district, killing two women.

At least 10 civilians were injured in the three blasts.

According to the United Nations, last year was the deadliest on record for civilians in the Afghan war, with 3,021 killed. The number of Afghan civilians killed dropped 36 percent in the first four months of this year compared with last year, but the U.N. says that too many are still being caught up in violence.

The policemen were killed while responding to a gun battle against insurgents early Sunday at a checkpoint in the Musa Qala district of neighboring Helmand province.

Daoud Ahmadi, the spokesman in Helmand, said a group of Taliban fighters attacked the police checkpoint at about 3 a.m.

Afghan police called for reinforcements, but on the way, one of the police vehicles hit a roadside bomb, killing the five policemen.

Ahmadi says three other policemen were wounded in the four-hour gun battle against the insurgents. He says the bodies of 20 insurgents were recovered from the battlefield.

Islamists protest NATO supply line in Pakistan

AP

Supporters of the Defense Council of Pakistan sit on the top of vehicles with party flags as they take part in a rally, in Lahore, Pakistan, Sunday, July 8, 2012.

LAHORE, Pakistan (AP)—Thousands of hardline Islamists streamed toward Pakistan's capital in a massive convoy of vehicles Sunday to protest the government's decision to allow the U.S. and other NATO countries to resume shipping troop supplies through the country to Afghanistan.

The demonstration, which started in the eastern city of Lahore, was organized by the Difah-e-Pakistan Council—Defense of Pakistan Council—a group of politicians and religious leaders who have been the most vocal opponents of the supply line.

Pakistan closed the route in November in retaliation for American airstrikes that killed 24 Pakistani troops. Following months of negotiations, Islamabad finally agreed to reopen the route last week after U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton apologized for the deaths.

Clinton met with Pakistani Foreign Minister Hina Rabbani Khar for the first time since the apology Sunday on the sidelines of an Afghan aid conference in Tokyo and expressed hope that resolution of the supply line conflict would lead to better relations between the troubled allies.

One of the reasons Pakistan waited so long to resolve the conflict is that the government was worried about domestic backlash in a country where anti-American sentiment is rampant despite billions of dollars in U.S. aid over the last decade.

The protest started Sunday in the center of Lahore, where several thousand people assembled with scores of buses, cars and motorbikes. They linked up with thousands more supporters waiting on the city's edge and drove toward Islamabad in a so-called "long march" against the supply line. The convoy included about 200 vehicles carrying some 8,000 people when it left Lahore, said police official Babar Bakht.

After completing the 300 kilometer (185 mile) journey to Islamabad, they plan to hold a protest in front of the parliament building Monday.

"By coming out on the streets, the Pakistani nation has shown its hatred for America," one of the Difah-e-Pakistan leaders, Maulana Samiul Haq, known as the father of the Taliban, said in a speech on the outskirts of Lahore.

Supporters showered Haq with rose petals as he rode through Lahore in the back of a truck with other Difah-e-Pakistan leaders, including Hafiz Saeed, founder of the banned Lashkar-e-Taiba militant group; Hamid Gul, a retired Pakistani intelligence chief with a long history of militant support; and Syed Munawar Hasan, leader of Pakistan's most powerful Islamist party, Jamaat-e-Islami.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Flood toll rises, damage mounts in northeast India

GAUHATI, India (AP)—The death toll has risen to 121 as damage mounts from monsoon floods that devastated the northeastern Indian state of Assam. Villagers are still finding bodies in receding waters. On Sunday the death toll stood at 121, including 16 buried in mudslides. About half of the 2.2 million people who were displaced remain in makeshift shelters or with relatives or friends. The central government has offered $90 million in aid to the agricultural state, where at least 254,000 hectares (627,600 acres) of rice fields and other crops have been affected. The floods also killed 559 animals in the Kaziranga game reserve, including more than 400 hog deer and 14 of its 2,300 endangered one-horned rhinos. State environment minister Rokybul Hussain called it a catastrophe.

Gunmen attack Pakistani army camp, kill 7 people

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Gunmen killed seven people Monday at a Pakistani army camp in a city where thousands of hardline Islamists spent the night on their way to the capital to protest the government's recent decision to reopen the NATO supply line to Afghanistan, security officials said. Police are searching for the culprits, and it's unclear whether any of the Islamist protesters were involved, said an army officer and three policemen, speaking on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to the media. The camp on the outskirts of the eastern city of Gujrat was attacked around 5:20 a.m., a little less than an hour after the leaders of the Difah-e-Pakistan, or Defense of Pakistan, protest movement finished delivering speeches inside the city, said two of the policemen.

Philippine governor suspended for hitting reporter

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A Philippine governor who whacked a broadcaster on the head with a microphone has been suspended for a month. President Benigno Aquino III ordered Gov. Jocel Baac of northern Kalinga province suspended without pay a year after a video showed him bursting into DZRK radio studio and attacking announcer Jerome Tabanganay. Tabanganay said Baac apparently was irked by the station's commentaries on illegal gambling and logging in the upland province. Aquino warned in his order handed down over the weekend that similar action will be dealt with more severely.

World

Egypt's president reconvenes dissolved parliament

CAIRO (AP)—Egypt's Islamist president fired the first volley Sunday in his battle with the nation's powerful generals, calling on the Islamist-dominated parliament to reconvene despite a military-backed court ruling that dissolved it.

A week into his presidency, the surprise move by Mohammed Morsi threatened to plunge the country into a new bout of instability and violence, nearly 17 months after the ouster of authoritarian leader Hosni Mubarak.

"This is the start of a battle that has for some time been brewing," said Negad Borai, a prominent rights lawyer and activist. "In this battle, the military may be the weaker opponent since it is up against an elected president."

Morsi's decree appeared to take the generals off guard. In the first sign of an imminent crisis, the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces held an "emergency meeting" shortly after it was announced. The official Middle East News Agency said the generals met to "review and discuss the consequences" of the decision.

The Supreme Constitutional Court, the tribunal that dissolved the legislature last month, was to meet Monday to discuss the issue.

Morsi, a member of the powerful Muslim Brotherhood, which has long been at odds with the military, also called for new parliamentary elections within 60 days of the adoption of a new constitution, which is not expected before late this year.

The dual moves were seen as a significant step by a leader whose authority was called into doubt by the generals' power grab in the days before and after the June 16-17 presidential runoff.

Last month, the then-ruling military generals dissolved the legislature after the Supreme Constitutional Court, the country's highest tribunal, ruled that a third of its members had been elected illegally—a move that angered the Brotherhood and poisoned the atmosphere ahead of the military's handover of power to Morsi on June 30.

The dissolution of parliament came as a severe blow to the Brotherhood, which held nearly half its seats and has dreamt of political power for most of its 84 years. Long banned, the group's leaders and hundreds of its supporters were jailed in the 1950s and 1960s, and subjected to repeated crackdowns throughout most of Mubarak's 29 years in power.

AP

In this Monday, Jan. 23, 2012 file photo, a general view of the first Egyptian parliament session after the revolution that ousted former President Hosni Mubarak, in Cairo, Egypt.

Libyan election hints at blow to Islamists

TRIPOLI, Libya (AP)—Libya's first nationwide elections in nearly five decades brought hints Sunday of an Arab Spring precedent: Western-leaning parties making strides over Islamist rivals hoping to follow the same paths to power as in neighbors Egypt and Tunisia.

While final results from Saturday's parliamentary election could still be days away under a two-tier selection system, unofficial and partial counts from Libya's biggest cities suggested liberal factions were leading the Muslim Brotherhood and allies in a possible first major setback to their political surge following last year's uprisings.

If the Libyan trend holds—which is still far from certain—it would challenge the narrative of rising Islamist power since the fall of Western-allied regimes from Tunis to Cairo. It also could display the different political dynamics in Libya, where tribal loyalties run deep and groups such as the Muslim Brotherhood at times cooperated with the rule of Moammar Gadhafi.

"Anyone with past ties with old regime is hated, even despised," said Fathi al-Fadhali, a pro-Islamist Libyan political analyst who lived in exile for 30 years. "Any political names associated with the regime are immediately politically burnt by that association."

Ultimately, the 200-seat parliament will face the task of forming a government—which could become tests of strength for Islamists and secular forces over questions such as women's rights, the extent of traditional Islamic law and relations with the U.S. and other Western nations that helped bring down Gadhafi.

U.S. President Barack Obama congratulated Libyans on the vote, calling it "another milestone on their extraordinary transition to democracy." U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon praised the people of Libya and the candidates who "contested the election in a peaceful, democratic spirit," according to his spokesman.

Now, the ballots have to be portioned out according to two categories: Eighty seats are set aside for party lists, and the remaining 120 for individual independent candidates.

In the first group, a liberal alliance led the former rebel prime minister Mahmoud Jibril appeared to hold more than half the seats in the capital Tripoli and the revolution stronghold of Benghazi, according to several party representatives. They spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to brief media.

Syria's Assad rejects comparison with Egypt, Libya

BERLIN (AP)—Syrian President Bashar Assad said in an interview broadcast Sunday that he is not afraid of meeting the same fate as the deposed and disgraced leaders of Libya and Egypt, saying he has nothing in common with them.

In one of his rare interviews with Western media since the deadly uprising in Syria erupted last year, Assad brushed off a question about whether he feared for his family, including his wife and three children.

"It's a completely different situation," he told German broadcaster ARD. "What's happening in Egypt is different from what is happening in Syria ... You cannot compare," he said.

He also rejected any comparisons with Libya, where rebels helped by NATO air strikes toppled the regime. Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi was killed while fleeing advancing opposition fighters.

"Describing what happened to al Gadhafi, this is savage, this is crime," he said in the interview which was conducted in English.

The 16 months of upheaval in Syria, spurred by the Arab Spring's pro-democracy movements across the Middle East, have left well over 14,000 people dead, according to activists. They accuse the autocratic ruler of crushing legitimate protests seeking reforms by waging a war against his own people.

But in the interview, the 46-year-old Assad who has ruled Syria since taking over from his father in 2000, accused the U.S. of fueling the uprising, saying that Washington ultimately bears responsibility for the deaths of innocent civilians in the Middle Eastern nation.

The U.S. is partnering with those "terrorists ... with weapons, money or public and political support at the United Nations," Assad said. "They offer the umbrella and political support to those gangs to ... destabilize Syria."

Assad rejected responsibility of his security forces for the violence, claiming that "supporters of the government, the victims from the security and the army" far outnumber those among civilians.

Instead, he told ARD that an opposition made up of terrorists, gangs, "a mixture, an amalgam of Al Qaida (and) other extremists" is responsible for the violence.

When asked directly about the killing of more than 100 civilians in the Syrian village of Houla in May, he blamed it on gangs who "came in hundreds from outside the city."

The massacre caused an international outcry, and U.N. investigators have since concluded that Syrian government troops could be behind the killings.

Assad said a "majority of the people ask for reforms, political reforms (but) not freedom." He stressed that he still had the overall support of Syria's people, firmly ruling out stepping down.

"The president shouldn't run away from challenge and we have a national challenge now in Syria," he said.

While he said he was ready for political dialogue with the opposition, Assad left no doubt that he would fight those his government perceives as terrorists.

"But as long as you have terrorism and as long as the dialogue didn't work, you have to fight the terrorism. You cannot keep just making dialogue while they are killing your people and your army," he said.

The main obstacles to a peaceful solution to the conflict are the nations supporting the opposition, namely Saudi Arabia and Qatar who send armaments, Turkey which helps with logistics and smuggling across the border and, finally, U.S. political support, he said.

WORLD BRIEFS

58 killed in central Nigeria raids and reprisals

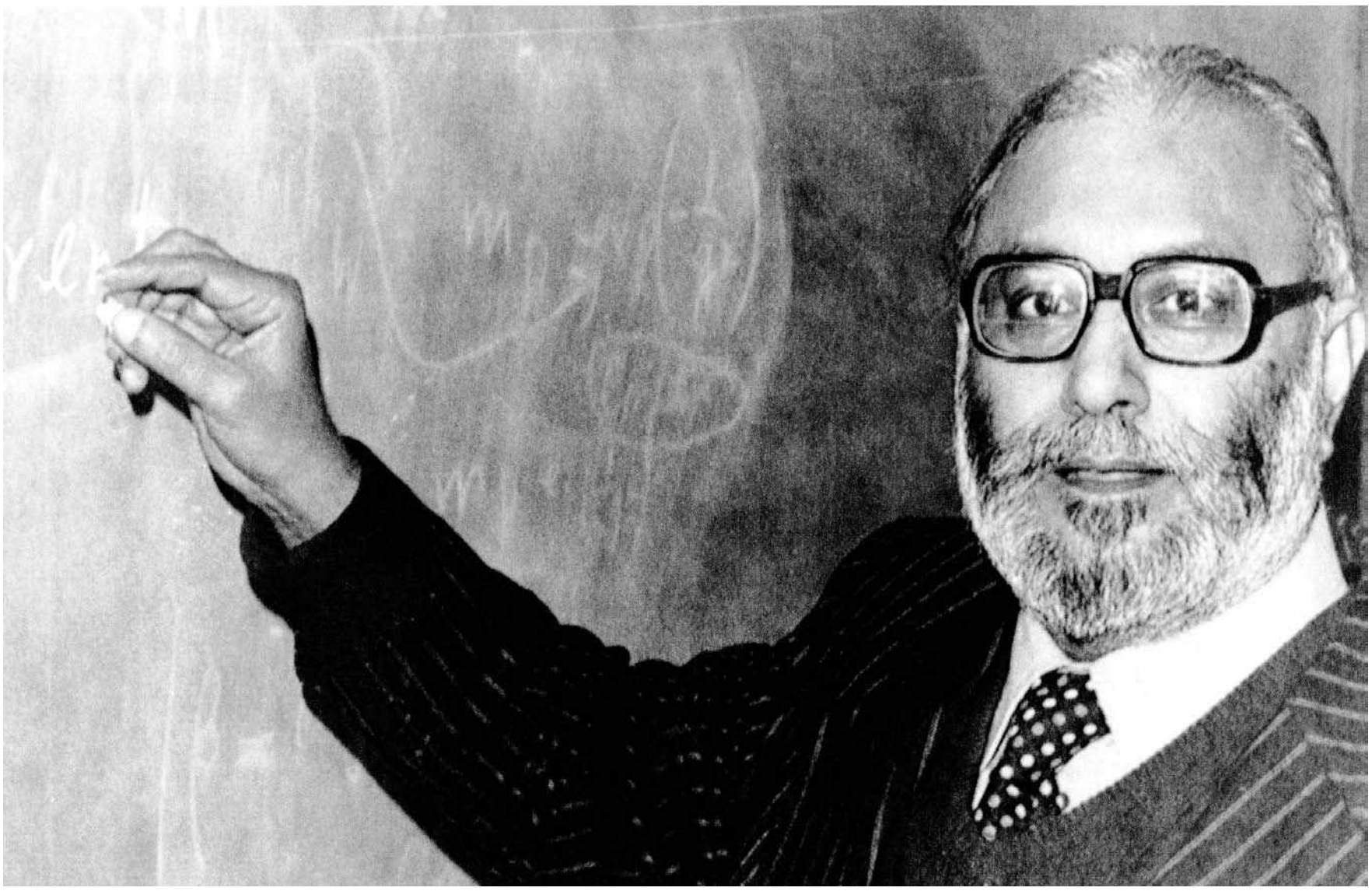
JOS, Nigeria (AP)—Raids and reprisal attacks have left 58 people dead in Christian villages near a Nigerian city where authorities have struggled to contain religious violence, officials said Sunday. Assailants launched "sophisticated attacks" on several villages near Jos early Saturday, said Mustapha Salisu, spokesman for a special taskforce made up of policemen and soldiers deployed in the area to curb years of violence. "They came in hundreds," Salisu said. "Some had (police) uniforms and some even had bulletproof vests."

DEA agents killed pilot of drug flight in Honduras

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (AP)—The pilot of a suspected drug flight killed in an anti-narcotics operation in Honduras earlier this month was shot dead by two U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration agents after he refused to surrender, an agency spokeswoman said Sunday. At the time, Honduran police said the twin-engine plane arriving from Colombia with a load of cocaine crashed while being chased by government aircraft. One pilot died in the July 3 incident and second was badly injured. Officials did not say how the death took place. DEA spokeswoman Dawn Dearden on Sunday said that when police arrived at the crash scene in eastern Honduras they found the plane's two pilots. The injured pilot was arrested and the second was shot by the DEA agents after he ignored orders to surrender and made a threatening gesture.

Focus

ISLAMABAD (AP)—The pioneering work of Abdus Salam, Pakistan's only Nobel laureate, helped lead to the apparent discovery of the subatomic "God particle" last week. But the late physicist is no hero at home, where his name has been stricken from school textbooks.



AP

In this picture taken on Oct 15, 1979, the first Pakistani Nobel Prize laureate Professor Abdus Salam, pictured in London, England after he heard the news that he was joint winner of the 1979 Nobel Prize for Physics. Salam, who belongs to a minority Muslim sect , helped develop the theoretical framework that led physicists to discover the ?God particle? this week, stoking worldwide excitement, yet he is not celebrated by his country and schoolchildren are rarely even taught his name.

Pakistan shuns physicist linked to 'God particle'

For Salam, not even death saved him from being targeted

By SEBASTIAN ABBOT
Associated Press

Praise within Pakistan for Salam, who also guided the early stages of the country's nuclear program, faded decades ago as Muslim fundamentalists gained power. He belonged to the Ahmadi sect, which has been persecuted by the government and targeted by Taliban militants who view its members as heretics.

Their plight—along with that of Pakistan's other religious minorities, such as Shiite Muslims, Christians and Hindus—has deepened in recent years as hardline interpretations of Islam have gained ground and militants have stepped up attacks against groups they oppose. Most Pakistanis are Sunni Muslims.

Salam, a child prodigy born in 1926 in what was to become Pakistan after the partition of British-controlled India, won more than a dozen international prizes and honors. In 1979, he was co-winner of the Nobel Prize for his work on the so-called Standard Model of particle physics, which theorizes how fundamental forces govern the overall dynamics of the universe. He died in 1996.

Salam and Steven Weinberg, with whom he shared the Nobel Prize, independently predicted the existence of a subatomic particle now called the Higgs boson, named after a British physicist who theorized that it endowed other particles with mass, said Pervez Hoodbhoy, a Pakistani physicist who once worked with Salam. It is also known as the "God particle" because its existence is vitally important toward understanding the early evolution of the universe.

Physicists in Switzerland stoked worldwide excitement Wednesday when they announced they have all but proven the particle's existence. This was done using the world's largest atom smasher at the European Organization for Nuclear Research, or CERN, near Geneva.

"This would be a great vindication of Salam's work and the Standard Model as a whole," said Khurshid Hasanain, chairman of the physics department at Quaid-i-Azam University in Islamabad.

In the 1960s and early 1970s, Salam wielded significant influence in Pakistan as the chief scientific adviser to the president, helping to set up the country's space agency and institute for nuclear science and technology. Salam also assisted in the early stages of Pakistan's effort to build a nuclear bomb, which it eventually tested in 1998.

Salam's life, along with the fate of the 3 million other Ahmadis in Pakistan, drastically changed in 1974 when parliament amended the constitution to declare that members of the sect were not considered Muslims under Pakistani law.

Ahmadis believe their spiritual leader, Hadrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad, who died in 1908, was a prophet of God—a position rejected by the government in response to a mass movement led by Pakistan's major Islamic parties. Islam considers Muhammad the last prophet and those who subsequently declared themselves prophets as heretics.

All Pakistani passport applicants must sign a section saying the Ahmadi faith's founder was an "impostor" and his followers are "non-Muslims." Ahmadis are prevented by law in Pakistan from "posing as Muslims," declaring their faith publicly, calling their places of worship mosques or performing the Muslim call to prayer. They can be punished with prison and even death.

> The way he has been treated is such a tragedy. He went from someone who was revered in Pakistan, a national celebrity, to someone who could not set foot in Pakistan. If he came, he would be insulted and could be hurt or even killed.

Salam resigned from his government post in protest following the 1974 constitutional amendment and eventually moved to Europe to pursue his work. In Italy, he created a center for theoretical physics to help physicists from the developing world.

Although Pakistan's then-president, Gen. Zia ul-Haq, presented Salam with Pakistan's highest civilian honor after he won the Nobel Prize, the general response in the country was muted. The physicist was celebrated more enthusiastically by other nations, including Pakistan's archenemy, India.

Despite his achievements, Salam's name appears in few textbooks and is rarely mentioned by Pakistani leaders or the media. By contrast, fellow Pakistani physicist A.Q. Khan, who played a key role in developing the country's nuclear bomb and later confessed to spreading nuclear technology to Iran, North Korea and Libya, is considered a national hero. Khan is a Muslim.

Officials at Quaid-i-Azam University had to cancel plans for Salam to lecture about his Nobel-winning theory when Islamist student activists threatened to break the physicist's legs, said his colleague Hoodbhoy.

"The way he has been treated is such a tragedy," said Hoodbhoy. "He went from someone who was revered in Pakistan, a national celebrity, to someone who could not set foot in Pakistan. If he came, he would be insulted and could be hurt or even killed."

The president who honored Salam would later go on to intensify persecution of Ahmadis, for whom life in Pakistan has grown even more precarious. Taliban militants attacked two mosques packed with Ahmadis in Lahore in 2010, killing at least 80 people.

"Many Ahmadis have received letters from fundamentalists since the 2010 attacks threatening to target them again, and the government isn't doing anything," said Qamar Suleiman, a spokesman for the Ahmadi community.

For Salam, not even death saved him from being targeted.

Hoodbhoy said his body was returned to Pakistan in 1996 after he died in Oxford, England, and was buried under a gravestone that read "First Muslim Nobel Laureate." A local magistrate ordered that the word "Muslim" be erased.

Overdrive

EPA mileage ratings for the 2012 Kia Optima Hybrid are 35 mpg in the city and 40 on the highway.

MCT

Kia Optima Hybrid adds style to HYBRID CLASS

BY JAYNE WILLIAMS
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

The 2012 Kia Optima Hybrid doesn't look like a hybrid (i.e. from outer space), and Kia insists it is "not your ordinary hybrid midsize sedan."

It's quite attractive, as well as fuel-efficient. EPA ratings are 35 mpg in the city and 40 on the highway. I averaged 34 mpg during my week-long test, driving mostly around the local community and some short highway trips.

Along with the gasoline-electric hybrid technology, there are other features designed to maximize fuel economy, such as an active grille shutter and smoother grille trim in high gloss with a chrome ring—it looks nice, too.

There also are more-aerodynamic headlight pockets, smoother rocker panels, lower front and rear fascia extensions, a rear deck spoiler and a lower ride height. The result is a sportier, sexier hybrid.

Powering the Optima Hybrid is a 166 horsepower, 2.4-liter four-cylinder gasoline engine and a 40-horsepower electric motor, paired with a six-speed automatic transmission.

Driving this car was easy and operation was effortless, except for a little clumsiness in the lower gears—shifting was a little rough and caught me by surprise.

Steering was smooth as silk, and the car was sure-footed on curves and corners. Sharp turns, especially U-turns, were easy with a 35.8-foot curb-to-curb turning radius.

There was a very slight hesitation on acceleration, but it didn't last more than a couple of seconds, then the Optima responded with plenty of energy.

My Optima came in Light Graphite (medium gray) with a black interior. The leather seats, with an interesting gray fabric insert around the side and back of the seat and around the side and top of the seatback, were included in the Premium Technology Package.

The leather wrapped steering wheel and shifter knob are standard. The front center armrest was "leatherette" and all upholstered areas were top-stitched.

Safety features included front-seat mounted side air bags and full-length side-curtain air bags. The car also has side-impact door beams, front and rear crumple zones and an impact-absorbing steering column.

All five seating positions have three-point seat belts, and there are tethers for child safety seats in the three rear positions. Of course, the rear middle seat was only comfortable enough for short trips — hard and narrow with less legroom.

The Optima has been rated "Good" in all safety categories by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, earning a Top Safety Pick for 2012. I am always pleased to report that I didn't have to find out how safe the vehicle actually is.

NUTS & BOLTS

Base price: $25,700
Price as tested: $31,750
All prices exclude destination charges.

The passenger compartment of the Optima was stylish, with quality materials and workmanship. The door "mood" lights added to the car's "not ordinary" feel.

Also included in the Premium Technology Package were a navigation system with a 7-inch screen, backup camera and Sirius real-time traffic; HD Infinity audio system with eight speakers and subwoofer; power/folding outside mirrors, 17-inch alloy wheels and HID headlights with auto-leveling; panoramic sunroof with manual shade; reclining heated and cooled front bucket seats; heated steering wheel and outboard rear seats; and an auto-dimming rearview mirror with integrated garage door opener and compass.

The navigation system was very advanced, with more choices above and beyond destination, the usual major points-of-interest and address book.

For example, categories included restaurants, financial services, recreation, and more, while sub-categories included gifts, airport, library, pharmacy, rest area, golf course and more. I didn't do any advanced searches, though.

The nav system itself was easy to program and intuitive, using the touch screen, and the directions were precise and easy to understand. The system also has voice-activation capability, which I don't attempt to use anymore—they don't understand my Southern accent and slang.

Satellite radio with a three-month trial subscription is standard, along with Bluetooth wireless technology, USB and auxiliary input jacks, push-button start with smart key, a cooled glove box and cruise control. But I couldn't get the USB port or Bluetooth to connect with an iPhone — apparently, they are not set up for that yet, which seems rather strange.

Other than that, the audio system was excellent, although programming was a little confusing at first. The buttons for the navigation system and the audio system were mixed together on the console, making it a little difficult to find the correct buttons, especially while driving. Both systems had touch-screen controls as well as pushbuttons.

Rear passengers have less legroom (34.7 inches) than those in front (45.4 inches), and the trunk is necessarily smaller (9.9 cubic feet) to accommodate the hybrid battery system. The 60/40 folding rear seatback has been eliminated and replaced by a pass-through for longer items.

Only one model of the hybrid is available, but options can run the price well over $30,000.

The Optima Hybrid is also available in Ebony Black, Snow White Pearl and Satin Metal Metallic. EPA ratings for non-hybrid Optima models range as high as 24 mpg city/35 highway.

Emma Jayne Williams' auto reviews appear in the Fort Worth Star-Telegram*. She can be reached at emmajayne1948@gmail.com.*

UNDER THE HOOD

Coat-hanger solution for chilly Dodge?

BY BRAD BERGHOLDT
MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

QUESTION: I have a 2002 Dodge Intrepid with 125,000 miles. When I turn the heater on it, does not blow hot. I took it to a repair shop and was told that a valve located behind the dashboard is not opening. I was told that to repair the problem, they would have to take the dashboard out, costing me in excess of $2,000. Is that true?—Edmond Taylor

ANSWER: The first step when diagnosing a no-heat condition on any vehicle is to verify the engine's cooling system is full of coolant and operating at the correct temperature, typically around 195 degrees Fahrenheit.

Next, a simple check of the temperature of both heater hoses should be made. You can find the hoses under hood, leading to the firewall from the engine. If both hoses are fairly hot and close in temperature, it's reasonable to assume coolant is flowing through the heater core, which is located behind the instrument panel. Should one hose be more than slightly cooler than the other, a flow restriction is likely.

You didn't mention whether the Intrepid is equipped with manual or automatic air conditioning, but it shouldn't matter, as the regulation of heat is controlled in the same manner, with a servo-controlled blend door. The blend door is located within the heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) housing, a large plastic box located behind/beneath the instrument panel. The housing contains the heater core, air conditioning evaporator and several doors and passages to direct airflow.

The doors are controlled by servos, which are small electric motors containing a position sensor. The blend door directs ventilation air either through the heater core to warm it, around it to keep it cool, or a blend of both. It sounds like your blend door is remaining in the cold-air position at all times.

The Intrepid has onboard diagnostics for the HVAC system, which can be accessed via a scan tool—or the control panel, with some sneaky button pushing. More than likely, your repair shop has retrieved a trouble code for a faulty blend door actuator or for a door out of position, possibly due to mechanical binding or breakage. Other faults could be a faulty control panel or wiring between parts, but that doesn't seem to be the case.

The blend door servo, unlike many of the other housing parts, is not terribly difficult to access, from under the instrument panel. Removal and replacement book time for this part is 1.3 hours, plus 0.2 hours if the Intrepid is console-equipped. I have a bad feeling your repair shop might have found a fault with the blend door itself, which may require replacement of the entire housing assembly. Renewing the housing — or any of the parts inside it, such as the heater core — requires removal and reinstallation of the instrument panel, which is an all-day job.

Being the cheapskate I am, thoughts are racing through my head regarding possible wrecking yard replacement parts, a "can't guarantee-it" repair attempt by the shop involving glue and baling wire, or even a coat hanger lever to eliminate the blend door's linkage. If the instrument panel needs to come out to get to the door itself, of course a first-rate repair is the only way to go. Ask your shop for more specifics about what they believe is necessary, and consider getting a second opinion.

Brad Bergholdt is an automotive technology instructor at Evergreen Valley College in San Jose, Calif. Readers may send him email at under-the-hood@earthlink.net; he cannot make personal replies.

Life&Style

Durable Borgnine's motto: 'You gotta go to work'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—He was a tubby tough guy with a pug of a mug, as unlikely a big-screen star or a romantic lead as could be imagined.

Yet Ernest Borgnine won a woman's love and an Academy Award in one of the great lonelyhearts roles in "Marty," a highlight in a workhorse career that spanned nearly seven decades and more than 200 film and television parts.

Borgnine, who died Sunday at 95, worked to the end. One of his final roles was a bit part as a CIA records-keeper in 2011's action comedy "Red"—fittingly for his age, a story of retired spies who show that it's never too late to remain in the game when they're pulled back into action.

"I keep telling myself, 'Damn it, you gotta go to work,'" Borgnine said in a 2007 interview with The Associated Press. "But there aren't many people who want to put Borgnine to work these days. They keep asking, 'Is he still alive?'"

And yet people put him to work—and kept him working—from his late-blooming start as an actor after a 10-year Navy career through modern times, when he had a recurring voice role on "SpongeBob SquarePants," became the oldest actor ever nominated for a Golden Globe and received the lifetime-achievement award last year from the Screen Actors Guild.

Borgnine died of renal failure at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center with his wife and children at his side, said spokesman Harry Flynn.

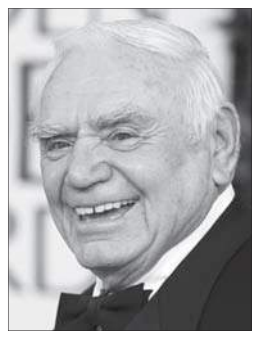
With his beefy build and a huge orb of a head that looked hard enough to shatter granite, Borgnine naturally was cast as heavies early on, notably as Sgt. Fatso Judson, the brute who beat Frank Sinatra's character to death in 1953's Pearl Harbor saga "From Here to Eternity."

More bad guy roles followed, but Borgnine showed his true pussycat colors as lovesick Marty Piletti, a Bronx butcher who, against all odds and his own expectations, finds romance with a wallflower in "Marty," adapted from Paddy Chayefsky's television play. Borgnine won the best-actor Oscar, and the film picked up three other awards, including best picture.

It turned out to be Borgnine's only Oscar nomination, yet it was a star-making part that broke him out of the villain mold. Borgnine went on to roles in such films as "The Dirty Dozen," "The Wild Bunch," "The Flight of the Phoenix," "The Poseidon Adventure" and "Escape from New York," but after "Marty," the veteran sailor's most memorable character appropriately came with the title role of the 1960s TV comedy "McHale's Navy" and its big-screen spinoff.

Mischievous con man McHale, commander of a World War II PT boat manned by misfits and malcontents, was far closer in spirit than shy Marty or savage Fatso to the real Borgnine, who had a cackling laugh and a reputation as a prankster.

Despite his big-hearted nature, Borgnine was typecast as a thug from the start, playing bad guys in a series of Westerns including Randolph Scott's "The Stranger Wore a Gun," Joan Crawford and Sterling Hayden's "Johnny Guitar" and Gary Cooper's "Vera Cruz" and Victor Mature and Susan Hayward's historical saga "Demetrius and the Gladiators."



Borgnine

Borgnine was playing another nasty character opposite Spencer Tracy in "Bad Day at Black Rock" when he auditioned for "Marty." In a 2004 interview, Borgnine recalled that Chayefsky and "Marty" director Delbert Mann thought of him as an actor whose lone screen specialty was to "kill people."

The filmmakers had hoped to cast Rod Steiger, who played the lead in the TV version of "Marty," but he had just landed a part Borgnine himself coveted—the bad guy Jud Fry in "Oklahoma!" Mann and Chayefsky flew to the "Black Rock" location to audition Borgnine, who showed up wearing a "cowboy suit, cowboy hat, three-day growth of beard, cowboy boots," the actor recalled. He even began the audition in a Western drawl before shifting to Marty's Bronx accent.

Borgnine said he knew immediately he had won over Mann and Chayefsky, and "Marty" charmed audiences who saw for the first time that he could play the teddy bear as well as the beast.

No one knew Borgnine could act at all—himself included—until he came home from World War II after his 10-year Navy stint. He enlisted in 1935, was discharged in 1941, then re-enlisted when the war began, serving on a destroyer.

As he contemplated what to do after the war, Borgnine's mother suggested acting.

"She said, 'You always like getting in front of people and making a fool of yourself, why don't you give it a try?'" Borgnine recalled last year, shortly before receiving his SAG lifetime honor. "I was sitting at the kitchen table and I saw this light. No kidding. It sounds crazy. And 10 years later, I had Grace Kelly handing me an Academy Award."

Mann and Chayefsky also won Oscars, and modest, gentle "Marty" claimed the best-picture prize over big-budget contenders "The Rose Tattoo," "Love Is a Many-Splendored Thing," "Picnic" and "Mister Roberts."

"Marty" made his career, but the success also brought complications for Borgnine.

"The Oscar made me a star, and I'm grateful," Borgnine said in 1966. "But I feel had I not won the Oscar I wouldn't have gotten into the messes I did in my personal life."

Those messes included four failed marriages, including one in 1964 to singer Ethel Merman that lasted less than six weeks.

But Borgnine's fifth marriage, in 1973 to Norwegian-born Tova Traesnaes, endured and brought with it an interesting business partnership. She manufactured and sold her own beauty products under the name of Tova and used her husband's rejuvenated face in her ads.

During a 2007 interview with The Associated Press, Borgnine expressed delight that their union had reached 34 years. "That's longer than the total of my four other marriages," he commented, laughing heartily.

Borgnine played a sensitive role opposite Bette Davis in another film based on a Chayefsky TV drama, "The Catered Affair," a film that was a personal favorite. It concerned a New York taxi driver and his wife who argued over the expense of their daughter's wedding.

Among Borgnine's other films were "Three Bad Men," "The Vikings," "Torpedo Run" and "Barabbas," "Ice Station Zebra," "The Adventurers," "Willard" and "The Greatest" (as Muhammad Ali's manager).

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT

Of the Untimely Death of one of our Staff
On July 9, 2012

Reynaldo R. Aure

aka **Brother Rey** (El Shaddai Local Preacher)
At the age of 51 years old.

Rosary is being said nightly at 7:30 p.m. at EL SHADDAI House of Prayer, Texas Road, Susupe, Behind the Repair Shop

His remains will be flown to the Philippines later on.

Your presence, thoughts and prayers are greatly appreciated.

From
ELS AUTO REPAIR SHOP FAMILY

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Maria Borja Minatoya

Better Known as "Maco Koichi" • November 14, 1947 – July 3, 2012

Was called home by our heavenly Father

Predeceased by:
Parents: *Jose Quitugua Borja & Francisca Atalig Borja*
Husband: *Toshio Minatoya*
Sister & Brother, In Law: *Teresita Borja Jordan, Pedro C. DelaCruz, Crispin A. Borja*

Lovingly Survived By:

Children & Their Family:
Anthony I. Macaranas (Tanya, Josh, Thad, Lymmia)
Claudia M. &Francisco P. Sablan(Jessica, Vanessa, George)
Carla Quitugua Atalig (Maile)
William B& Jolene Bartlett (Keoni, Toshi)

Brother, Sisters & In Laws:
Delgadina B. DelaCruz &Children
Ana B. Castro & Children
Elphidia (Piding) B. Camacho & Children
Cynthia (Oching) A. Borja
Thomas A. Fujihira (Susan)

Care taker: *Melva Mendoza*

She is also survived by numerous: *Cousins, Godchildren, nieces, nephews, & friends*

DAILY MASS IS BEING OFFERED AT 6:00 PM AT SAN ANTONIO CHURCH
Sunday at 7:30am

LAST RESPECTS WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 11, 2012, THE BODY WILL LEAVE COMMONWEALTH HEALTH CENTER AT 7:00 AM TO SAN ANTONIO CHURCH. MASS OF CHRISTIAN BURIAL WILL BE AT 10:00 AM. THE BODY WILL TAKEN TO VETERAN CEMENTARY RIGHT AFTER MASS

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Savages
Friday and Saturday 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:50
Sunday thru Thursday 1:00 4:00 7:00
Taylor Kitsch, Salma Hayek
Crime • Rated R

Synopsis
A pair of West Coast weed dealers get tangled up in a Mexican cartel's drug business after they kidnap their friend in this Universal Pictures production. Oliver Stone directs from a script he wrote with Shane Salerno and Don Winslow, whose novel the film is based on.

Katy Perry: Part of Me
Friday and Saturday 1:05 4:05 7:05 9:35
Sunday thru Thursday 1:05 4:05 7:05
Katy Perry
Musical • Rated PG

Synopsis
Get to know the woman behind the pop icon as singer Katy Perry brings fans behind the scenes of her California Dreams Tour in this colorful, intimate musical documentary.

The Amazing Spider-Man
Friday and Saturday 1:10 4:10 7:10 9:55
Sunday thru Thursday 1:10 4:10 7:10
Andrew Garfield, Emma Stone
Action, Fantasy, Drama • Rated PG 13

Synopsis
"The Amazing Spider-Man" is the story of Peter Parker (Garfield), an outcast high schooler who was abandoned by his parents as a boy, leaving him to be raised by his Uncle Ben (Sheen) and Aunt May (Field). Like most teenagers, Peter is trying to figure out who he is and how he got to be the person he is today. Peter is also finding his way with his first high school crush, Gwen Stacy (Stone), and together, they struggle with love, commitment, and secrets. As Peter discovers a mysterious briefcase that belonged to his father, he begins a quest to understand his parents' disappearance—leading him directly to Oscorp and the lab of Dr. Curt Connors (Ifans), his father's former partner. As Spider-Man is set on a collision course with Connors' alter-ego.

Magic Mike
Friday and Saturday 1:20 4:20 7:20 9:45
Sunday thru Thursday 1:20 4:20 7:20
Channing Tatum, Alex Pettyfer
Comedy, Drama • Rated R

Ted
Friday and Saturday 1:25 4:25 7:25 10:05
Sunday thru Thursday 1:25 4:25 7:25
Mark Wahlberg, Mila Kunis
Comedy • Rated R

Brave
Friday and Saturday 1:30 4:30 7:30 10:00
Sunday thru Thursday 1:30 4:30 7:30
Kelly MacDonald, Emma Thompson
Children's/family • Rated PG

Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted
Friday and Saturday 1:15 4:15 7:15 9:30
Sunday thru Thursday 1:15 4:15 7:15
Ben Stiller, Chris Rock, David Schwimmer
Children's/family • Rated PG

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Aerosmith hits the stage with new fans

By BRIAN MCCOLLUM
DETROIT FREE PRESS

DETROIT—Like most brand-name classic rock acts, Aerosmith has never been short of young fans—a kind of perpetual audience regeneration as the songs endure in American culture.

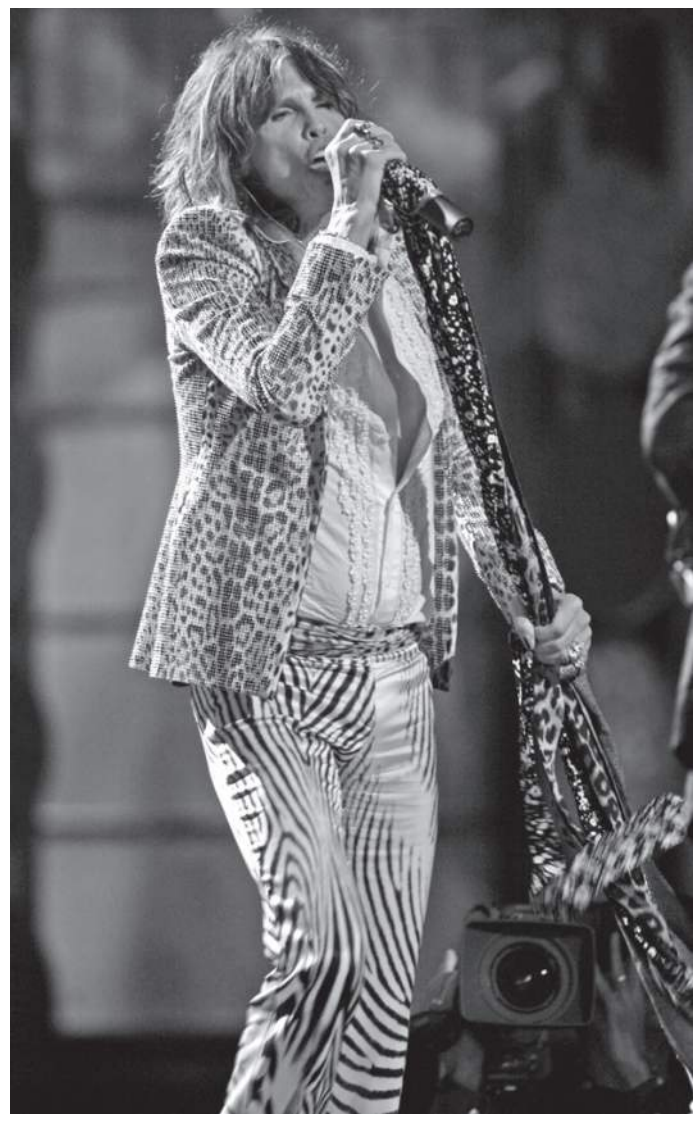
"When you get young kids, you get lifelong fans," says guitarist Brad Whitford. "We've known that forever."

But for the Boston band, there's a key new source of Aerosmith followers, one the band might never have conceived possible: "American Idol."

Since front man Steven Tyler landed a place at the "Idol" judges table in January 2011—with a resulting pop-culture stature that has included "60 Minutes" features and Burger King ads—Whitford says there's been a discernible shift in the Aerosmith fan base. The band is drawing "a lot of kids that might not have otherwise come."

"It's a whole new thing. You hit a different audience when you're dealing with television," he says. " (Tyler's) personality is something the band was very familiar with—he's an extremely funny, likable guy—and a lot of people got to see it, feel like they knew him a little better, and say 'I'm going to go check that guy out.'"

Aerosmith is still conscious of catering to its longtime audience, including fans who have been aboard since the group's self-titled debut burst onto the rock scene nearly 40 years ago. Whitford—who at 60 is the band's youngest member—says the repertoire on this summer's Global Warming Tour includes a revolving slate of deep-catalog selections amid the array of hits.



MCT
Steven Tyler of Aerosmith performs at the Fashion Rocks Concert held at Radio City Music Hall in New York.

Earlier this week the band rolled out 1978's "Chip Away the Stone," and other "stuff we've pulled out of the hat" onstage has included '70s chestnuts such as "S.O.S. (Too Bad)," "No More No More" and "Back in the Saddle."

"We're always talking about trying to dig deeper into the catalog here and there, play some songs that were always close to us but that people don't hear that often," says Whitford. "But it's not really easy for us. We have this huge catalog of songs, and with our show, we get to do somewhere around 20 (numbers). So it's kind of hard to decide when you've got over 100 to choose from.

"We just go out and do what we do, and hope people get enough of a taste of what they're wanting to hear."

That means a set that captures a wide span of the band's career—from the gritty rock of early albums like "Get Your Wings" and "Toys in the Attic" through the more polished fare that marked Aerosmith's pop-chart resurgence in the '90s. Perhaps conspicuous by its absence is material from the group's most recent pair of albums, "Just Push Play" (2001) and "Honkin' on Bobo" (2004).

Whitford and company are banking on something more enduring with their next project, "Music from Another Dimension," produced by longtime studio collaborator Jack Douglas and pegged for release in November. The eight-year gap is twice as long as Aerosmith's previous break between records.

"We certainly wanted it out sooner than that, but we're extremely pleased with it," says Whitford. "It might be one of our best efforts ever. … It's got a little bit of everything on there."

For now Aerosmith is focusing on this round of summer dates, the band's first set of U.S. shows since 2010.

At this point, says Whitford, heading out on the road doesn't require intense rehearsals for Aerosmith, whose members are happy to ride on instincts honed during four decades of performing together.

"It's a very familiar and comfortable place to be—probably where we all like to be most, out of everything we do in our lives," he says. "It's a real kick. It's what drives the blood through our veins. That's what we do all the other (BS) for, is to get up there and do what we do best."

Spidey swings back to action with $140M launch

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Your new friendly neighborhood Spider-Man has spun himself a $65 million opening weekend and $140 million in his first six days at U.S. theaters.

Overseas, Sony's "The Amazing Spider-Man" added $129.1 million, raising its international total to $201.6 million and worldwide haul to $341.2 million since it began rolling out a week earlier in some foreign markets.

The movie started off as a smaller domestic moneymaker than the previous three Spidey films, but it laid to rest objections that it was too soon to relaunch the superhero franchise.

The new origin story for the Marvel Comics web-slinger comes just five years after "Spider-Man 3," Tobey Maguire and director Sam Raimi's final movie in a series that shattered box-office records.

"This was never modeled or was never meant to be `Spider-Man 4.' This was always a relaunch with a new cast and different stories to tell, and quite frankly, it succeeded beyond our imaginations," said Rory Bruer, Sony's head of distribution.

The previous weekend's No. 1 film, Universal's teddy-bear comedy "Ted," fell to second-place with $32.6 million, raising its domestic total to $120.2 million.

Among new releases, Oliver Stone's drug-war thriller "Savages" opened at No. 4 with a solid $16.2 million weekend, also for Universal. Paramount's concert film "Katy Perry: Part of Me" failed to pack in the pop star's fans, debuting a distant No. 8 with just $7.2 million.

Going into wide release after two weekends in a handful of theaters, Woody Allen's ensemble romance "To Rome with Love" broke into the top-10 with $3.5 million. The Sony Pictures Classics release lifted its domestic total to $5.3 million.

"The Amazing Spider-Man" bumped up U.S. receipts, with Hollywood pulling in an estimated $200 million overall for the weekend, according to box-office tracker Hollywood.com. That's a 28.6 percent increase over the same weekend last year, when "Transformers: Dark of the Moon" led with $47.1 million in its second weekend.

Leading up to the domestic debut of "Amazing Spider-Man" last Tuesday, Hollywood had expectations of a six-day total of around $120 million for the film by the end of Fourth of July weekend. That proved a conservative projection, but studio executives genuinely were uncertain how well the film might do so close on the heels of the previous "Spider-Man" series.

"To expect the kind of numbers the first `Spider-Man' did or the second or third would have been kind of reaching," said Hollywood.com analyst Paul Dergarabedian. "For a reboot that people definitely were on the fence about initially, I think this is a really strong performance."

Raimi and Maguire's "Spider-Man" was the first movie to top $100 million in a single weekend, opening with $114.8 million in 2002. "Spider-Man 3" set a new weekend record with its $151.1 million debut, which has since been surpassed by such films as 2008's "The Dark Knight," last year's "Harry Potter" finale and the current record-holder, "The Avengers," with $207.4 million in May.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Hollywood.com.

1. **"The Amazing Spider-Man,"** $65 million ($129.1 million international).
2. **"Ted,"** $32.6 million ($15 million international).
3. **"Brave,"** $20.2 million ($4.2 million international).
4. **"Savages,"** $16.2 million.
5. **"Magic Mike,"** $15.6 million.
6. **"Tyler Perry's Madea's Witness Protection,"** $10.2 million.
7. **"Madagascar 3: Europe's Most Wanted,"** $7.7 million ($6.4 million international).
8. **"Katy Perry: Part of Me,"** $7.2 million ($2.3 million international).
9. **"Moonrise Kingdom,"** $4.6 million ($300,000 international).
10. **"To Rome with Love,"** $3.5 million ($2.4 million international).

KATIE HOLMES AND TOM CRUISE'S SPLIT

Is privacy the best policy?

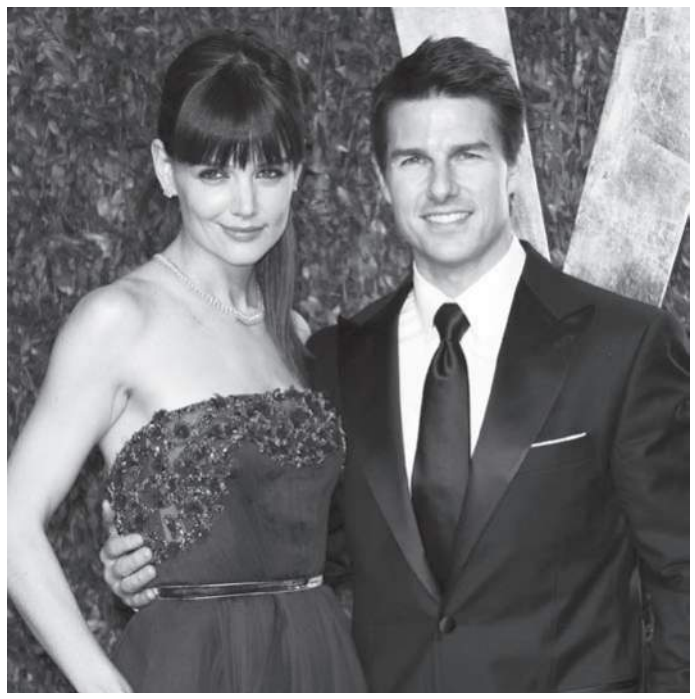
By CHRISTIE D'ZURILLA
LOS ANGELES TIMES

LOS ANGELES—Forget what you might have heard at that Fourth of July barbecue: Katie Holmes wants to keep her divorce from Tom Cruise as private as possible and has not filed for an emergency custody hearing, her attorney said.

"The reports about an emergent filing last Friday are incorrect. Other than her action for divorce, the only pending application filed by Ms. Holmes remains her request for an anonymous caption," attorney Jonathan Wolfe told the Los Angeles Times.

Cruise has yet to file any papers, TMZ reported, citing sources who said the actor was likely to file custodial papers in New York first, while requesting that the case be moved to California, largely seen as the couple's primary state of residence. Holmes filed for divorce June 28 in New York, seeking primary residential and legal custody of their daughter, Suri.

"Anonymous caption" means papers are filed with initials only, or sans names entirely, making the case harder for journalists and other interested parties to track through the court system, attorney Michael Stutman, a New York divorce specialist, told Buzzfeed. But fame doesn't come with a cloak of invisibility included—rather, Stutman said, making the names public would have to compromise the safety of the divorcing parties or their children for the anonymity request to be affirmed.



MCT

Katie Holmes and Tom Cruise attend the 2012 Vanity Fair Oscar party held at the Sunset Tower Hotel in West Hollywood, California on February 26, 2012.

In any case, Holmes' alleged desire for privacy could be just what the etiquette of the situation calls for, from the divorcing parties as well as the famous folks around them, nationally certified manners expert Lisa Gaché of the Beverly Hills Manners website told the Times.

Alas, Gaché acknowledged, people who are behaving politely "can sound rather boring" to folks who are looking for more dish on the split.

Witness Katie's big revelation to the New York Daily News on Wednesday: "I'm all right," Holmes reportedly said. "Thank you."

But "manners aren't milquetoast," Gaché said. "Katie would do well to channel the likes of Grace Kelly and Jackie O," the latter of whom she recently portrayed in a TV miniseries. Jackie "handled things gracefully, she always had this persona that was poised, put together, and she never let her guard down."

Though it might not always be possible, that would be the best posture for Holmes to adopt, she said: One where privacy and respect come first for all parties involved, including daughter Suri and the Suri of the future, who will eventually be able to look back on how her parents treated each other during their split.

"Maybe she can channel that poise and ... and maintain her moral compass."

And if the custody fight were to turn ugly, with one or both parties going off the rails—and perhaps weaponizing personal information gleaned from Scientology "auditing" sessions? "We cannot control what another person does," Gaché said, "only the way we respond."

News Corp. Chairman Rupert Murdoch went a bit off the reservation over the weekend, commenting on the TomKat divorce in a tweet that could be an unleashing of his journalist hounds to pursue a Scientology angle to the story, or simply a dude sticking his nose into other people's business.

"Scientology back in news. Very weird cult, but big, big money involved with Tom Cruise either number two or three in hiearchy," Murdoch tweeted, adding, "Watch Katie Holmes and Scientology story develop. Something creepy, maybe even evil, about these people."

"What Rupert Murdoch said only did Rupert Murdoch a disservice," Gaché said, though the media baron might disagree.

"Since Scientology tweet hundreds of attacks," Murdoch wrote hours after his first blurts. "Expect they will increase and get worse and maybe threatening. Still stick to my story."

Sources with Team Tom, incidentally, told TMZ on Thursday that the divorce has nothing to do with Scientology, which they said Katie had embraced fully even when her other half was away filming. While not disclosing what the divorce is about, they accused Team Katie of spreading that story line as a way to hurt Cruise.

He's not Pauly D (But don't tell them that!)

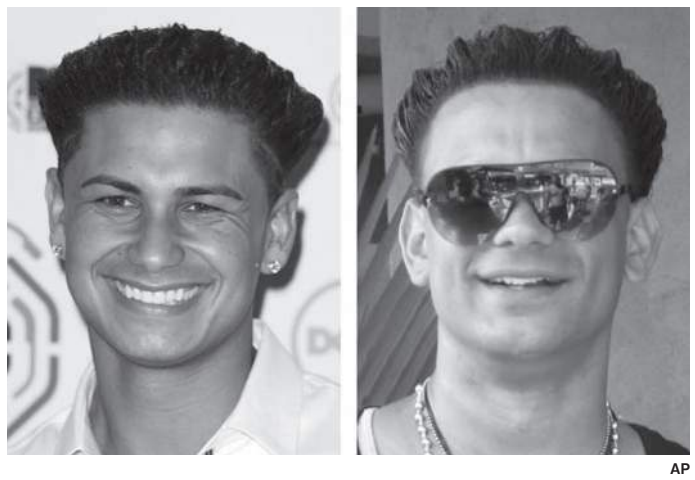
SEASIDE HEIGHTS, N.J. (AP)—Don't call him Pauly.

Mike Maldonado has got the blowout hairdo, the gym-rat biceps, and the tan that makes you wonder: Is it real or spray-on?

He's also got women swooning around him, and grandparents asking him to pose for photos on the Seaside Heights boardwalk—all thinking he's Paul "Pauly D" DelVecchio from MTV's "Jersey Shore."

To his credit, Maldonado repeatedly tells people, "I'm not Pauly," and he gets amused when they don't believe him, sometimes playing along. Of course, it helps that he's sitting on a barstool at the same boardwalk watering hole where the actual "Jersey Shore" cast members sometimes eat. (Mike "The Situation" Sorrentino had breakfast there Tuesday.) The real cast was filming just two blocks north on the boardwalk one recent day.

The 20-something New Yorker knows he bears an uncanny physical resemblance to the reality show star, and there's little in his appearance to discourage the comparison, from the hairdo right down to the arm tattoos (though the ink is not identical.)



AP

This photo combo shows TV personality Paul "DJ Pauly D" DelVecchio, left, and New Yorker Michael Maldonado who is often mistaken for DelVecchio.

He doesn't talk much about the resemblance, but he answers readily when asked how many women he has met who think they might be going home with Pauly D.

"Happens all the time, bro," Maldonado said. "All the time."

Publicists for MTV as well as for DelVecchio through his personal Web site did not respond to messages seeking comment.

On the day "Jersey Shore" cast member Deena Cortese pleaded guilty in municipal court to failing to stay on the sidewalk (a plea bargain from her original charge of disorderly conduct for dancing in the middle of a street in June), the boardwalk was crowded with camera-toting gawkers hoping to catch a glimpse of a cast member. More than a few bit—hard—on Maldonado's fake-out.

A grandfather had him pose with his daughter and grandson.

"Pauly, can I get a photo with you?" asked a middle-aged woman, who was delighted when the photographer asked "Pauly" to give her a kiss for the photo, and he obliged.

A guy with gray hair, a backwards ball cap and a few tattoos of his own pumped Maldonado's hand and slapped his back, saying, "Whoa! Pauly D is right here!"

Then there was the blonde teenage girl who edged warily up to him, softly saying, "OhmyGodOhmyGodOhmyGodOhmyGod!"

When a bystander told her it wasn't really Pauly D, she grew indignant, yelling at Maldonado, "Why are you trying to be someone you aren't?"

And then, she delivered the coup de grace as only a teenage girl can, saying, "You're not as hot as him," before turning and walking off in a huff.

Reader sets record straight on addressing gay spouses

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I am a longtime reader. This is the first time I have ever written to you, and I'm hoping you will have an answer for me. I'd like to know the proper way to address a surviving gay spouse in the unfortunate event of a death.

Is a gay man who has lost his husband a widower or a widow (seeing as he lost his husband and not a wife)? Is the title of the survivor dependent on his or her gender or the gender of their partner?

I'm only 29 and I hope I won't have to use this information for many years, but I'd like to know the proper terminology. For the record, I support gay marriage because I believe in true love in all its forms.

HANNAH IN CARROLLTON, GA.

DEAR HANNAH: Regardless of sexual orientation, if a male loses his spouse, he is a widower, and if a woman loses her spouse, she is a widow. The terms don't change because the union was a same-sex relationship.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I was diagnosed with bipolar disorder many years ago. I started a combined therapy about a year ago—individual and a dialectical behavioral therapy group. Everything has been going great, and I have learned a lot about myself. The problem is, I have become very attracted to my therapist and, as a result, I feel it is interfering with my treatment.

Lately, my only interest in going to group or therapy is to see him and be in his presence. I also find myself canceling group if I know he won't be there.

I am confused as to why I am having these feelings. Is it part of my bipolar disorder, or something else? Surely, this would be something I would bring up to my therapist, but unfortunately, I'm embarrassed.

Abby, what do you suggest I do in a situation like this? I feel like putting a hold on therapy for a while because of this, but I know that I still need it.

NEEDS THERAPY IN ILLINOIS

DEAR NEEDS THERAPY: Please don't use this as an excuse to stop your therapy. Your feelings are very common in psychotherapy. The term for it is "transference." It is the process by which emotions associated with one person—such as a parent—unconsciously shift to another. In your case, that's your therapist.

Because you're finding it distracting, it's important that you discuss this privately with your therapist. It won't be the first time he has heard it, I guarantee. I'll bet if you asked in a group session, "How many people here are in love with Dr. So-and-So?" almost every hand in the room would go up.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My husband makes his living doing general construction. We have no employees. We get along fantastic, except for one point of contention.

Over the years we have made investments in tools for his trade. Another family member constantly asks to borrow them for personal projects. My husband willingly lends them out. If he needs that tool for a job, he will go without, reschedule his work or make a special trip to retrieve it.

I say the only way he should lend out his tools is if there is a slim to zero chance at all of his needing it himself, and if he does, then it must be returned immediately.

Also, we are a paycheck-to-paycheck family and this family member is wealthy. These tools are our way of making a living, and we need to be ready for any job at a moment's notice. Please advise.

TOOLS OF THE TRADE

DEAR T.O.T.T.: Your husband appears to be a very nice person, but providing for his family should come first. His tools are his livelihood, just as those belonging to a barber, beautician, seamstress or doctor would be. Because his relative has the money, he (or she) should inquire about RENTING the necessary tool from a home improvement store, or search for "tool rentals" in the Yellow Pages or online.

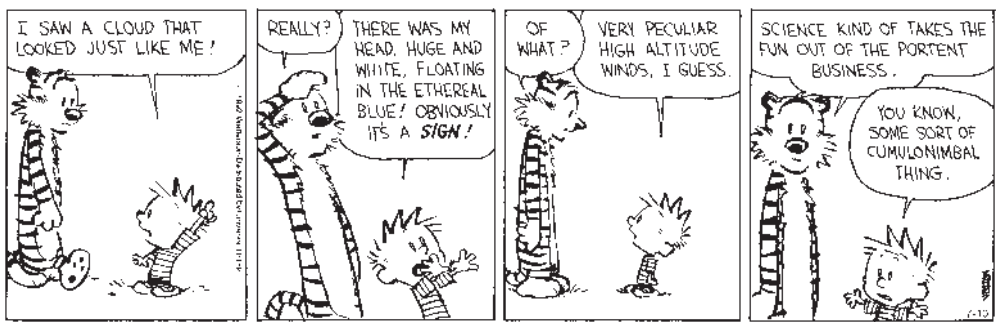
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $14 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

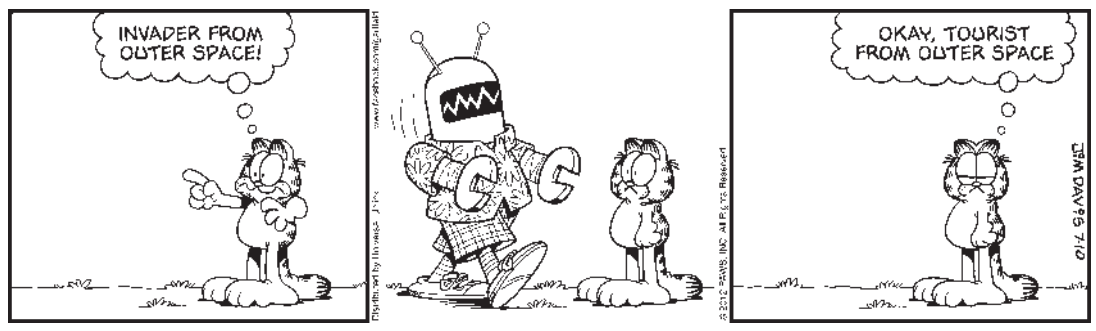
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


I SAW A CLOUD THAT LOOKED JUST LIKE ME!
REALLY?
THERE WAS MY HEAD, HUGE AND WHITE, FLOATING IN THE ETHEREAL BLUE! OBVIOUSLY IT'S A SIGN!
OF WHAT?
VERY PECULIAR HIGH ALTITUDE WINDS, I GUESS.
SCIENCE KIND OF TAKES THE FUN OUT OF THE PORTENT BUSINESS.
YOU KNOW, SOME SORT OF CUMULONIMBAL THING.

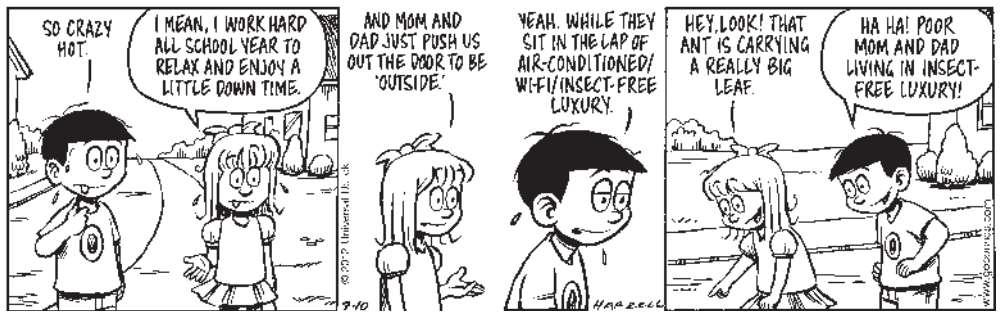
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



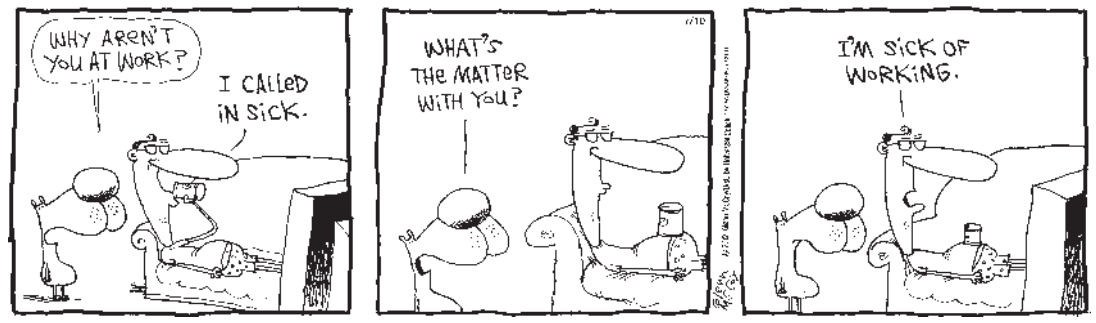
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


SO CRAZY HOT.
I MEAN, I WORK HARD ALL SCHOOL YEAR TO RELAX AND ENJOY A LITTLE DOWN TIME.
AND MOM AND DAD JUST PUSH US OUT THE DOOR TO BE 'OUTSIDE.'
YEAH. WHILE THEY SIT IN THE LAP OF AIR-CONDITIONED/ WI-FI/INSECT-FREE LUXURY.
HEY, LOOK! THAT ANT IS CARRYING A REALLY BIG LEAF.
HA HA! POOR MOM AND DAD LIVING IN INSECT-FREE LUXURY!

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

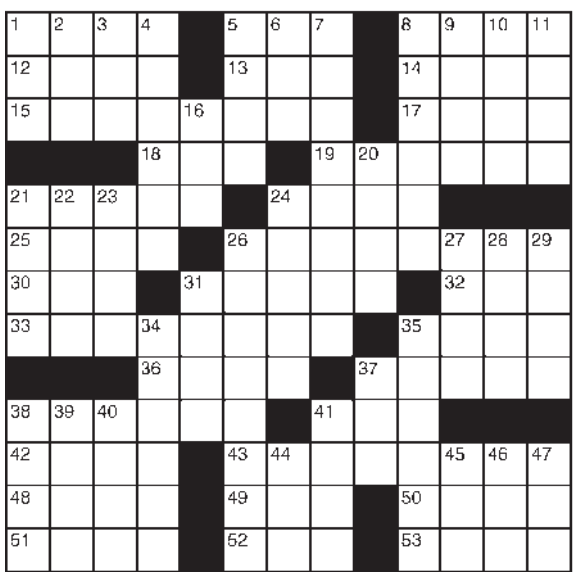
ACROSS
1 Appear to be
5 Erstwhile acorn
8 KFC flavorer
12 Notion
13 Eisenhower
14 Hodgepodge
15 Chris Martin's band
17 Desire
18 Weep
19 Ersatz bullets
21 Pass along
24 Piglet's papa
25 Memo acronym
26 Protect oneself possum-style
30 Doctrine
31 Prognosticators
32 Half of XIV
33 Fan of Jerry Garcia et al.
35 Coop group
36 Engrossed
37 Fellows
38 Poisons
41 Jazz style
42 Acknowledge
43 Winter ailment
48 Collections
49 Sphere
50 Met melody
51 Deuce defeater
52 Like some humor
53 Abound

DOWN
1 "— 'em, Fido!"
2 Tokyo's old name
3 Wet wriggler
4 Wild and crazy
5 Unctuous
6 Alias (Abbr.)
7 Computer component
8 "The Da Vinci Code" director
9 Verve
10 Skaters' mecca
11 Androids
16 Snoop
20 Deposits
21 Incursion
22 Being, to Brutus
23 Dalai —
24 Speak sheepishly?
26 X-rated entertainment, maybe
27 Still
28 "— Misbehavin'"
29 Ph.D. hurdle
31 Counterfeit
34 About to nod off
35 Jazz fan, maybe
37 Pantheon member
38 Expansive
39 Always
40 Staff member?
41 Infant
44 Blunder
45 Raw rock
46 Falsehood
47 Water barrier

Solution time: 21 mins.

J	A	G	■	B	A	S	E	D	■	W	O	K
O	V	A	■	A	R	O	M	A	■	I	R	E
B	E	L	L	T	O	W	E	R	■	L	E	E
■	■	■	F	M	U	■	N	F	A	I	O	N
C	O	M	M	A	S	■	D	R	I	P	■	■
A	B	A	■	N	A	P	■	S	L	O	P	E
S	O	Y	S	■	L	A	M	■	S	W	A	Y
H	E	F	T	S	■	Y	A	M	■	E	V	E
■	■	L	E	A	S	■	T	O	U	R	E	D
B	L	O	T	C	H	■	I	T	S	■	■	■
L	O	W	■	H	O	T	S	H	O	W	E	R
A	G	E	■	E	R	A	S	E	■	I	C	E
H	E	R	■	M	E	T	E	R	■	G	O	D

Yesterday's answer 7-10



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Thomas Ian Nicholas, 32; Jessica Simpson, 32; Adrian Grenier, 36; Sofia Vergara, 40.

Happy Birthday: Emotions must not be allowed to lead you in directions that are unlikely to help you progress. Refrain from taking on any responsibility that doesn't rightfully belong to you. Focus more on what you can do to improve your surroundings and your personal and professional connections. Your numbers are 4, 10, 21, 26, 33, 41, 48.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Make every move count. Change will bring with it a new attitude and more connections to people you find inspiring. Don't let the past bring you down or limit the possibilities that are within reach. Love is in the stars. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Concentrate on monetary gains. Don't let anyone bully you into spending on something you don't want. Take action with regard to where you want to be and the type of environment in which you want to live. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Don't stop until you reach your goal. Choose the people you work or play with carefully. Avoid anyone who is likely to goad you into an argument. Even though you will win whatever you pursue, a quarrel won't satisfy your soul. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Sit tight until you are sure the changes you want to make are in your favor. Don't be fooled by someone painting a pretty picture of the possibilities. Talk is cheap, so get your facts and figures straight before you proceed. ✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): You'll be tempted to take on too much. Make sure you have a backup plan and plenty of supporters you can call upon for help. Romance is highlighted, and social and organizational events will enhance your chances to improve your love life. ✪✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Don't let work, peers or a lover hold you back. Believe in what you have to offer and pursue your goals even if someone criticizes you. Not everyone will give you valid information or help you advance. Rely on you and you alone. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Learn all you can from mistakes. Perfection will play an important role in how well you are received. Hone your skills and make them work for you. Socialize and you will appeal to someone you want as a partner. Love is dominant. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Keep your plans simple and your wallet tucked away in a safe place. You don't have to spend to impress. Consider who your friends really are and adjust your roster to accommodate those who truly count. Take a creative leap forward. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Making financial adjustments and lowering your overhead will ease your stress and help you feel good about future prospects. The lifestyle you desire can be yours if you let go of people and possessions you no longer need or use. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Don't let discussions deter you from following your own path, especially where money and profits are concerned. Family and friends are likely to lead you down a costly path that will cause added worry and regret. ✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Recognizing past mistakes will lead to a better life. You have the potential and the opportunity; all you have to do is put in the effort. Romance is highlighted, and making changes to your home and lifestyle will lead to happiness. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Don't believe everything you hear. Stick close to home and the people you can trust. Travel will result in empty promises and a lack of factual information. Don't let the chemistry you have with someone keep you from making a good choice. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are persuasive, appealing, unpredictable and very quick-witted.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

9				4		5		
	7				8	1		
				3			7	2
			8				3	
1		4				2		5
	8				9			
3	4			1				
		6	2				9	
		2		8				4

Difficulty Level ★★ 7/10

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

8	9	2	6	1	5	7	3	4
3	1	5	4	9	7	6	2	8
6	7	4	3	8	2	9	1	5
7	4	1	8	5	9	2	6	3
9	6	8	2	7	3	5	4	1
2	5	3	1	4	6	8	7	9
5	2	9	7	3	1	4	8	6
4	3	6	9	2	8	1	5	7
1	8	7	5	6	4	3	9	2

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

RUBBER — Solution: 5 letters

H	E	B	D	(P)	K	C	O	L	R	E	T	N	I	L
F	Y	L	(A)	E	A	R	A	P	H	E	T	N	A	G
S	O	(D)	A	L	L	C	A	B	O	R	D	R	L	A
M	(S)	O	R	S	L	C	L	B	E	I	U	O	S	S
O	T	R	R	O	T	O	Y	E	A	T	V	E	F	K
O	T	E	T	P	C	I	O	C	A	E	O	O	G	E
T	N	H	M	K	R	A	C	N	E	H	O	N	H	T
H	E	S	S	M	L	E	R	O	S	R	I	E	L	E
S	M	A	T	U	O	E	T	B	L	R	E	A	S	L
E	E	W	T	E	M	R	A	A	O	L	T	T	O	B
R	C	A	S	Y	L	N	G	O	W	N	O	S	L	I
A	P	E	L	N	D	L	L	S	E	O	M	I	I	X
S	Y	O	T	S	A	F	A	D	B	S	M	A	D	E
E	P	S	T	A	M	P	S	M	I	L	K	Y	O	L
R	H	C	L	U	M	A	C	H	I	N	E	R	Y	F

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Balloons, Bands, Bark, Blocks, Boots, Cement, Clothes, Colloid, Dams, Dental, Elastic, Eraser, Flexible, Flooring, Foam, Gasket, Glove, Grommet, Heel, Hydrocarbon, India, Interlock, Machinery, Mallets, Milky, Mulch, Natural, Pads, Para, Polymer, Recycled, Roofs, Shoes, Smooth, Snap, Solid, Spatula, Stamps, Tire, Toys, Tree, Washer, Waterproof

Yesterday's Answer: Points

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WHATZIT Solution: Club sandwich

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
RJ CNMI CORPORATION

(1) MANAGER for Bar/Restaurant
(2) SUPERVISOR for Bar/Restaurant
(1) COOK

Please call Sophie at 287-7617

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Office Hours: 8:30am-5:30pm, M-F daily
Saipan Tribune

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

AutoCad Technician in Saipan or Guam: Part Time Able to work unsupervised. Meet deadlines. Must be able communicate via email.

Housekeeper wanted on Guam: Must provide police and court clearance.

Conduit Installer in Saipan: On-Call. Must provide police and court clearance.

Electronics Technician in Guam and Saipan: Part Time and Full Time. Must show certifications. Must provide police and court clearance.

Yard and Building Groundskeeper in Guam: Part Time 8:00 - 12:00. Must provide police and court clearance.

Please email resume to: custsvc@cybertecholdings.com or call 671.735.8911.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Yano Enterprises, Inc.

Restaurant Supervisor (1): Must be qualified in restaurant operations, customer service, menu planning, & reservation operations. Also need to have basic Japanese oral skills. Must have an extensive knowledge of Japanese food products & be able to make orders & preparations.

Restaurant Waitress (2): Must be able to speak basic Japanese & efficient English & have a friendly & outgoing personality. Able to introduce & recommend menu to customer & other duties related.

Additional requirements: All applicants must be of good health and have a good moral character, must be able to follow grooming standards, must be able to obtain health certificate, must be able to provide current police and court clearance, with reliable transportation and must agree to a drug test.

Applicants of positions listed above are required to have a minimum of 3-5 year experience. Applications can be picked up at Kinpachi Restaurant in Garapan, Hotel Street.
Please no phone calls.

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GCA's January forensic winners
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Mustang Boss 302
a thrill to drive, but lacks the extras
Life&Style
Davis, Dujardin win lead honors at SAG awards
Mary Tyler Moore honored for lifetime achievement
Pastimes
SUDOKU
Sports
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'King of Aces' on island through January
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Pirates stay hot, beat Giants, 13-2

PITTSBURGH (AP)—Andrew McCutchen hit two home runs and Neil Walker had five hits as the Pittsburgh Pirates routed the San Francisco Giants 13-2 on Sunday.

The National League Central-leading Pirates have won six of seven and 10 of 12 games. They are 34-19 since May 12 for the best record in the majors over that stretch.

Casey McGehee went 3 for 4 with two RBIs for Pittsburgh (48-37), which is 11 games over .500 for the first time since 1992 and in first place at the break for the first time since 1997. A.J. Burnett (10-2) pitched effectively into the seventh to win his ninth consecutive decision.

Braves 4, Phillies 3

In Philadelphia, Brian McCann homered for the fourth consecutive game and Dan Uggla hit a two-run shot to lead Atlanta to a three-game series sweep.

McCann hit a grand slam on Friday and a solo shot on Saturday. He then hit the go-ahead homer in the seventh inning against Raul Valdes (2-2) in the series finale.

Cubs 7, Mets 0

In New York, Ryan Dempster extended his scoreless streak to 27 innings in his first start in three weeks, and Starlin Castro hit a three-run homer as Chicago blanked New York.

Dempster (4-3) was activated from the disabled list, then pitched five innings of four-hit ball. It was his first outing since June 15, when he experienced tightness in a back muscle.

Cardinals 5, Marlins 4

In St. Louis, Rafael Furcal hit a two-run single off Heath Bell with two out in the ninth inning, capping a three-run rally and lifting St. Louis over Florida.

Pinch-hitter Austin Kearns put the Marlins up 4-2 with a three-run homer in the seventh.

It was the sixth blown save in 25 chances for Bell (2-5), who signed with Miami over the winter.

Rockies 4, Nationals 3

In Washington, Jordan Pacheco doubled and scored the tiebreaking run off a ninth-inning wild pitch by Tyler Clippard, giving Colorado a comeback victory over Washington.

The NL East-leading Nationals took a 3-1 lead into the eighth, but a meltdown by their usually reliable bullpen cost them a chance to hit the All-Star break with their best record since the team moved to Washington in 2005.

Diamondbacks 7, Dodgers 1

In Phoenix, Trevor Bauer scattered two hits over six scoreless innings, leading Arizona over Los Angeles.

Paul Goldschmidt homered, doubled and drove in a career-high four runs for the Diamondbacks, who won the final three games of the four-game set to move within four games of the NL West-leading Dodgers.

Brewers 5, Astros 3, 10 innings

In Houston, Corey Hart drove in the go-ahead run with a single in the 10th inning, and Rickie Weeks' third hit added an insurance run for Milwaukee.

Nyjer Morgan walked to start the 10th and Fernando Rodriguez (1-8) intentionally walked Ryan Braun before a wild pitch moved the pair over.

Reds 4, Padres 2

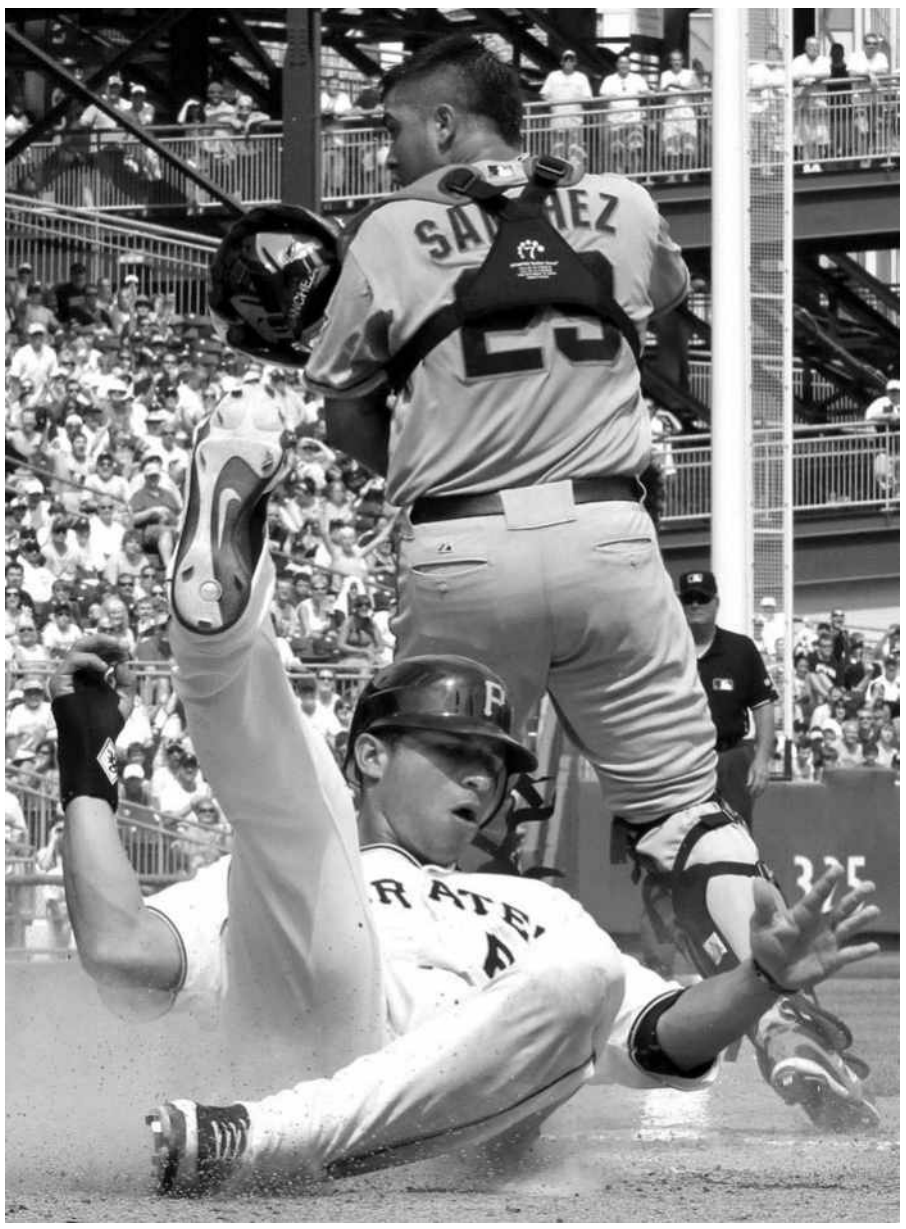
In San Diego, All-Star Jay Bruce and Ryan Ludwick hit consecutive home runs, leading Cincinnati over San Diego.

Bruce and Ludwick connected two pitches apart in the fourth inning to give Cincinnati a 3-0 lead.

Rays 7, Indians 6

In Cleveland, All-Star Chris Perez blew his first save since opening day as the Tampa Bay Rays scored three runs in the ninth inning to beat the Cleveland Indians.

Will Rhymes hit a solo homer with one out and Carlos Pena added a RBI triple after Elliot Johnson singled to tie it at 6 off Perez (0-2), who had converted 25 straight saves since giving up a lead April 5. Ben Zobrist then singled home Pena with the go-ahead run before Perez got two strikeouts to end the inning.



AP

Pittsburgh Pirates' Gorkys Hernandez, bottom, slides safely around San Francisco Giants catcher Hector Sanchez to score on a fielding error by second baseman Ryan Theriot on a ball hit by Pirates' Pedro Alvarez during the sixth inning of a baseball game in Pittsburgh, Sunday, July 8, 2012.

Blue Jays 11, White Sox 9

In Chicago, Colby Rasmus hit one of four Blue Jays homers and had three RBIs to help Toronto end the White Sox's five-game winning streak.

The first-place White Sox go to the All-Star break with a 47-38 record and a three-game lead in the American League Central. Chicago manager Robin Ventura was ejected in the top of the ninth after charging to the plate to heatedly argue a ball and strike call with home plate umpire D.J. Reyburn.

Tigers 7, Royals 1

In Detroit, Delmon Young homered for the fourth consecutive game, Prince Fielder hit a three-run shot, and Jhonny Peralta homered and drove in three runs as the Tigers beat Kansas City to complete a sweep of the three-game weekend series.

The power display backed Max Scherzer (8-5), who allowed a run and five hits over seven innings, walking one and striking out seven.

Angels 6, Orioles 0

In Anaheim, California, Brad Mills pitched five innings of three-hit ball in a spot start for the injured Dan Haren after getting called up from the minors, as the Angels got home runs from Albert Pujols, Erick Aybar, Mike Trout and Mark Trumbo in a victory over Baltimore.

Mills (1-0) threw 88 pitches on three day's rest in his Angels debut with six strikeouts and no walks.

Athletics 2, Mariners 1, 13 innings.

In Oakland, California, Josh Reddick hit a game-ending RBI double in the 13th inning to send Oakland into the All-Star break with a .500 record.

Jemile Weeks led off the 13th with a single off Oliver Perez (0-2) and then raced around the bases to score on Reddick's drive to left-center field that gave the A's their eighth walk-off win of the season and second this series.

Yankees 7, Red Sox 3

In Boston, Ivan Nova struck out 10 and Andruw Jones hit his fourth homer in three games as surging New York went into the All-Star break with a win over Boston.

The Yankees took three of four at Fenway Park and boosted their record to a major league-best 52-33. They hold the biggest division lead in baseball at seven games over Baltimore.

Rangers 4, Twins 3, 13 innings

In Arlington, Texas, Ian Kinsler hit a winning RBI single with one out in the 13th inning as AL West-leading Texas beat Minnesota after tying the game with three unearned runs in the ninth.

Texas had the bases loaded when Kinsler, one of eight Texas players headed to the All-Star game, hit a liner into the left-center field gap that bounced against the wall while his teammates stormed out the dugout to celebrate the team's second consecutive 4-3 extra-inning victory.

An angry Wiggins keeps Tour de France lead

PORRENTRUY, Switzerland (AP)—Bradley Wiggins kept the yellow jersey at the Tour de France. Keeping his cool was another matter.

The former Olympic champion, with ambitions to be Britain's first Tour winner, unleashed a profanity-laced tirade after Sunday's eighth stage in which the race entered Switzerland.

Thibaut Pinot, at 22 the youngest competitor, was the day's winner and gave France its first stage victory this year. Wiggins quashed a late attack by defending champion Cadel Evans to hold the lead.

Wiggins' Team Sky has controlled the Tour in a style reminiscent of Lance Armstrong's former U.S. Postal team. The Briton, however, lost his composure when asked by a reporter to comment on comparisons between the teams and "cynics who believe that you have to be doped up to win the Tour."

Wiggins, angered by the chatter on social media, let loose with an expletive-filled outburst.

"I cannot be dealing with people like that. It justifies their own bone-idleness because they can't ever imagine applying themselves to anything in their lives," he said. "And it's easy for them to sit under a pseudonym on Twitter and write that."

The U.S. Anti-Doping Agency last month filed charges against Armstrong, accusing the seven-time Tour champion of using performance-enhancing drugs. Armstrong denies any wrongdoing.

The International Cycling Union has worked to rid drugs cheats from the sport and has drawn some praise from the World Anti-Doping Agency. The Tour is without two-time champion Alberto Contador this year while he serves a doping ban linked to the race in 2010.

Wiggins is looking to move from three-time Olympic track gold-medalist to a rising star of the Tour de France roads. His fourth-place Tour finish in 2009 put to rest many questions about his climbing skill.

Speaking to French television, Wiggins said his ability to get up hard mountain climbs came from training, diet and lifestyle. "I drink nothing now ... before, in 2004, I was almost an alcoholic after the Olympics."

He's come a long way since, and he has showed during the last two days he's able to keep up with strong climbers like Evans, Vincenzo Nibali of Italy and Belgium's Jurgen Van Den Broeck.

Sunday's ride into the Jura range next to the Swiss Alps, known as the birthplace of the Swiss army knife, offered double drama: a hard last climb that splintered the pack, and a tense chase of Pinot to the finish.

Pinot burst from the pack and overtook a breakaway rider during a steep, final climb to win the 98-mile stage from Belfort in eastern France to the Swiss town of Porrentruy.

"I will remember this day my entire life," Pinot said as teammates embraced him. "I can't yet get my mind around it."

Evans of Australia was second, 26 seconds behind, but didn't gain any time on Wiggins, who was fourth in a small group that included most of the remaining pre-race favorites.

"It was good fun coming in at the end there," Wiggins said. "It was a bit like being in a junior race again. Everyone attacking in ones and twos. It's good. It's what it's all about."

Still, he acknowledged he was glad he and his British squad were able to get through it, one more obstacle out of the way on the road to the finish in Paris on July 22.

"Another tough day ticked off," he said.

Wiggins leads Evans by 10 seconds. Nibali is third, 16 seconds behind the leader.

Sunday's race was marred by yet another crash, bringing a high-profile withdrawal. Defending Olympic champion Samuel Sanchez pulled out 35 miles into the stage. He broke his right hand and injured his left shoulder, and could miss the London Games.

Twenty riders have dropped out so far from the 99th Tour. Of those, at least 13 gave up the three-week race following a mass pileup during Stage 6.

Monday's stage returns to favorable territory for riders like Wiggins and Evans: a time-trial. Riders will set off one by one in the 26-mile race against the clock from Arc-en-Senans to Besancon.

Wiggins, ever the family man, showed France-2 TV tattooed mementoes of his children on the base of his thumbs. That's right where he can see them when he rides with his hands on the handlebars in a time trial like the one on Monday.

Evans called the upcoming ninth stage "the test of truth."

"It's each with their own two legs. ... Opportunities don't come around that often, so when they come you have to grab them by the neck," he said. "Tomorrow might turn everything around, so we'll see after tomorrow."

Ted Potter Jr. wins Greenbrier Classic in playoff

WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS, W.Va. (AP)—Ted Potter Jr.'s first PGA Tour victory means a lot more than a big paycheck. The 28-year-old rookie can take a trip to Augusta National off his wish list.

By making a 4-foot birdie putt on the third hole of a playoff Sunday to beat Troy Kelly in the Greenbrier Classic, Potter earned a spot in the Masters, something he listed as career goal.

Simply winning, though, had been the top priority for a player who first joined the former Nationwide Tour in 2004 and didn't have much success until last year.

"When you're missing cuts every week, you get down on yourself," Potter said. "I mean, it's hard to pick yourself back up. But the plus side for me is I was still young. I just knew I had plenty of time and just be patient and it will come back around again."

Potter finished second on the Nationwide money list last year to advance to the PGA Tour. He tied for 13th in his first event of the year but had missed five straight cuts entering the week.

His fortunes changed Sunday.

"It was just a big relief," Potter said. "All the struggles the last few weeks, knowing that now I've got a couple years to try to improve on my game and win some more tournaments."

The left-hander became the sixth first-time winner on the tour this season. He earned $1,098,000 and jumped from 173rd to 51st in the FedEx Cup standings.

He also gets a two-year exemption on the PGA Tour. And Potter, Kelly and Marc Leishman—who won two weeks ago at the Travelers Championship—can pack their bags for the British Open, which starts July 19 at Royal Lytham and St. Annes.

Ranked 218th in the world, Potter overcame a four-stroke deficit with four holes to play, finishing with his second straight 6-under 64 to match Kelly at 16 under. Kelly closed with a 66.

It marked the third straight year of close finishes on the Old White TPC course. Scott Stallings beat Bob Estes and Bill Haas on the first hole of a playoff last year, and Stuart Appleby shot a 59 to beat Jeff Overton by a stroke in 2010.

Webb Simpson lost a one-stroke lead on the back nine at the tournament for the second straight year. The U.S. Open champion made three straight bogeys, shot 73 and tied for seventh at 11 under.

During the fourth round, Potter made long putts for a birdie at No. 15 and an eagle at No. 17, and his 5-footer for birdie at No. 18 tied Kelly, who could have avoided the playoff but missed birdie putts on the final two holes.

Both made par on the first two playoff holes, with Potter missing a 5-footer at No. 17 that would have won it on the second extra hole. Moments before, Kelly made a 22-footer for par after finding trouble from the greenside bunker.

Playing the par-3 18th for the third time on the day, Kelly's tee shot was short of a steep ridge in the middle of the green, while Potter sent his 9-iron onto the top of the ridge and it trickled close to the pin.

Kelly missed his 45-foot birdie putt, then watched Potter close out the win as thunderstorms moved in.

Despite the disappointment, Kelly earned his best career finish. He previous one was a tie for 37th.

"I had a lot of fun," Kelly said. "And looking forward to kind of getting in that position some more."

Kelly underwent hip-replacement surgery in September 2010 after being diagnosed with arthritis. He resumed playing golf five months later and was 11th in Nationwide winnings last year.

Charlie Wi and rookie Charlie Beljan tied for third at 14 under. Wi shot a 65, and Beljan had a 67.

Daniel Summerhays finished fifth at 13 under after a 64. Martin Flores (67) was another stroke back.

Simpson, the third-round leader, had gone 50 consecutive holes without a bogey but made three of them in a row starting at the par-5 12th.

"I felt really confident and then just got on a bad run there," Simpson said. "I'm probably going to learn something from it. Have to learn the hard way."

Joining him at 11 under were Robert Castro (63), Kevin Na (65), Sean O'Hair (66) and Ken Duke (70). Duke was within a shot of the lead on the 14th hole before fading with a pair of double bogeys.

Simpson can now focus on family—his wife, Dowd, is due to give birth to the couple's second child within three weeks. That means skipping the British Open.

AP

Ted Potter, Jr. embraces his girlfriend Cheri Cox after winning the Greenbrier Classic PGA Golf tournament at the Greenbrier in White Sulphur Springs, W.Va., Sunday, July 8, 2012.

Much to replace for US basketball team to top '08

LAS VEGAS (AP)—They lost Dwyane Wade but gained Kevin Durant. Dwight Howard's size has given way to Russell Westbrook's speed.

The Americans know their men's Olympic basketball team will look much different than the one that captured gold four years ago in Beijing. Three of the most important players from that team were unable to return, but the carryovers keep talking about being better now than they were then.

"I think it has the potential to be that if we learn to use our versatility. It's a more versatile team than 2008. Now does that translate into being better?" coach Mike Krzyzewski said Sunday. "Although we don't have the center, that team didn't have Durant or Westbrook. So it's a different team and we'll see if it becomes better, but it can be. It could be."

In some ways, that's difficult to envision. Wade was the team's leading scorer, averaging 16 points in just over 18 minutes per game off the bench. Howard started at center and averaged 10.9 points while shooting 74.5 percent from the field. Chris Bosh, also out this summer, backed him up and shot even better, knocking down 24 of 31 shots (77.4 percent) and leading the team with 6.1 rebounds per game.

How can any team make up for all that?

"Well, we have some guys that can pick that up," LeBron James said. "I mean, D-Wade was our leading scorer, but we didn't have Kevin Durant on our team. We didn't have the activity of Tyson Chandler on our team as well and the athleticism at the point guard position."

Westbrook is an offensive upgrade over Jason Kidd, the point guard not back from '08, and is seen by teammates as the player who could most easily fill Wade's role as the game-changer off the bench. As James sees it, Andre Iguodala is more athletic than Tayshaun Prince, and James Harden can do more things offensively than Michael Redd.

Prince and Redd, along with Carlos Boozer, were reserves on the 2008 team but were not retained. Kidd retired from international competition after winning two gold medals.

"If you match us up, we have so many great pieces that guys can just play to their strengths, and I think we can be better," James said.

Having Durant is a start. The NBA's three-time scoring champion had the best tournament ever by an American player at the world basketball championship two years ago, scoring 22.8 points per game. But the biggest difference could be James, who was already a great player in 2008 but has grown into the best in the world by now.

Carmelo Anthony, Chris Paul and Deron Williams, the other young players from that team, have made similar leaps toward superstardom, and Kobe Bryant has held steady where he was.

"First of all, you have to look at the guys who are with us from the `08 team. They were 21, 22 years old back in Beijing. They're now in the prime of their careers, so they're a lot bigger, stronger, better basketball players today," USA Basketball chairman Jerry Colangelo said.

"Those players by themselves are much better and I look at the players we've added. We have much more depth, much more talent than we had in `08 when I look at this roster versus that roster, and I'm not looking to make comparisons, but when asked the question, I'll put this team up against anyone."

Center remains the biggest question mark. Chandler was the NBA's Defensive Player of the Year and has become more of a weapon offensively in recent years, but he's still not quite Howard. Kevin Love and Blake Griffin will have to show they can handle the move to center as well as Bosh did.

The Americans averaged 106.2 points in 2008 and smashed their opponents by nearly 30 per game. Nobody was close to them until the gold-medal game, when Spain was within four points with 2 1/2 minutes left before the U.S. pulled away to a 118-107 victory.

Playing at that level again won't be easy. So no matter what the expectations are now, none of them matter until the games start in three weeks.

"We didn't do nothing yet," Anthony said. "So until we go out there and we win the gold medal, then people are going to talk, going to speculate, but we'll see after we win the gold medal if we determine if we're a better team than `08."

Timberwolves bring Roy aboard, hope to add Batum

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Brandon Roy is on his way to Minnesota to start his comeback in the same place his career began seven years ago. If Nicolas Batum has his way, he'll soon join his former Blazers teammate on the Timberwolves.

Roy agreed to terms of a two-year deal worth $10.4 million Thursday night, and Minnesota also agreed to terms with Batum on a four-year, $45 million deal with bonuses that could make the deal worth more than $50 million.

Roy announced his retirement in December after battling chronic knee injuries, and the Blazers used the amnesty clause on the remaining $63 million of his deal to make him an unrestricted free agent. But after receiving treatments on his knees over the last few months, Roy is ready to try to resume his career and will sign the offer sheet July 11 when the free agent moratorium ends.

Batum's path to Minnesota will be much more difficult. As a restricted free agent, the Blazers can match any offer made to Batum. But his agent told The Associated Press on Thursday night that Batum is hoping Portland doesn't match Minnesota's offer or executes a sign and trade to get him to his preferred destination.

Batum and agent Bouna Ndiaye met with Blazers officials Thursday and informed them that the versatile swingman feels his best fit is in Minnesota.

"It was a very cordial meeting. There were no hard feelings," Ndiaye said. "So Nicolas basically talked about his four years with the Blazers and he expressed that maybe it was time for him to look at a place where he could be more happy.

FEDERER

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he's going to continue to play well and try to break seven, and he could very well end up with eight or nine Wimbledons," Sampras said in a telephone interview. "I just think he's that much better than the other guys on grass, and he loves the court the way I loved that court. He's a great champion, a classy champion, and I'm really happy for him."

After a record seven consecutive Wimbledon finals from 2003-09, winning the first six, Federer lost in the quarterfinals in 2010 and 2011, then wasted two match points and a two-set lead against Djokovic in the U.S. Open semifinals last year, raising questions about whether he might be slipping.

"A couple tough moments for me the last couple years, I guess," Federer said. "So I really almost didn't try to picture myself with the trophy or try to think too far ahead, really."

After losing in the semifinals each of the previous three years, Murray was the first British man to reach the final at Wimbledon since Bunny Austin in 1938, and was trying to become the hosts' first male title winner since Fred Perry in 1936.

Alas, Murray dropped to 0-4 in Grand Slam finals, three against Federer. Only one other man lost the first four major title matches of his career: Ivan Lendl, who is coaching Murray now and sat in his guest box with chin planted on left palm, as expressionless as he was during his playing career. While Lendl never did win Wimbledon, perhaps Murray can take solace from knowing his coach did end up with eight Grand Slam titles.

"I'm getting closer," Murray told the crowd afterward, his voice cracking and tears flowing.

"Everybody always talks about the pressure of playing at Wimbledon, how tough it is," he said. "It's not the people watching; they make it so much easier to play. The support has been incredible, so thank you."

The Scotland native was urged on by 15,000 or so of his closest friends in person, along with thousands more watching on a large video screen a short walk away across the ground—not to mention the millions watching the broadcast on the BBC.

The afternoon's first roar from those in attendance came when Murray jogged to the baseline for the prematch warmup; there even were cheers when his first practice stroke clipped the top of the net and went over.

Any omen would do.

The British, tennis enthusiasts and otherwise, searched for signs everywhere. Murray turned 25 in May, just as Perry had turned 25 in May 1934, shortly before he won his first of three consecutive Wimbledon titles; 2012 is Queen Elizabeth II's Diamond Jubilee, celebrating her 60-year reign, just as 1977, when Virginia Wade won the Wimbledon women's championship, was the Silver Jubilee, marking 25 years on the throne; on Saturday night, Jonathan Marray (paired with Frederik Nielsen of Denmark) became the first Brit to win a men's doubles title at Wimbledon since—yes, that's right—1936.

Royalty—real and of a celebrity nature—began arriving more than a half-hour beforehand: Prince William's wife, Kate, and her sister, Pippa Middleton; British Prime Minister David Cameron; soccer star David Beckham and his wife, former Spice Girl Victoria. Also present in the Royal Box: Scottish First Minister Alex Salmond, who wants Scotland to break away from Britain.

Early on, every point Murray won earned cheers as though the ultimate outcome had been decided. Every miss, even a first-serve fault, drew moans of "Awwwwwww," as though their lad had lost any chance.

Murray got off to a glorious start. Federer, appearing in his 24th Grand Slam final, appeared the tenser of the two, amazingly enough, and when he sailed a swinging forehand volley long to get broken in the opening game, spectators rose to their feet and waved their Scottish and Union Jack flags.

That said, they do appreciate greatness here, and so Federer's best offerings drew applause, too. There was plenty of clapping and yelling to go around for both men, who produced extremely high-quality play, filled with lengthy exchanges, superb shotmaking and deft volleying - all befitting the setting and the stakes.

Murray's second break helped him take the opening set, and things were even as could be for much of the second, until deuce at 5-5. From there, Federer stepped up, in large part by winning 43 of the 57 points on his serve the rest of the way. He saved all five break points he faced after the first set.

After holding for 6-5 in the second, Federer broke. At 30-all, he won a 17-stroke point with a drop volley that Murray got to but sailed a lob attempt long. And then Federer carved—caressed, really—another drop volley, this one bouncing to the side after it landed for a winner, impossible to reach, closing a 20-stroke exchange.

"Roger did a good job in the second set, turning the momentum around, and really changing things a lot," said his coach, Paul Annacone, who also worked with Sampras.

A real key switch happened at 1-all in the third, when a drizzle transformed into heavy showers, causing a 40-minute delay while the retractable cover was moved over the court. The roof was installed before the 2009 tournament; this was its first use for a singles final.

Until then, Federer had won 86 points, Murray 85. Under the roof—with no wind to alter trajectories, allowing the third-seeded Swiss star to make pure, explosive contact with the ball—Federer won 65 points, Murray 52.

"The way the court plays is a bit different," the fourth-seeded Murray said. "I think he served very well when the roof closed. He served better."

The most monumental game, though, came with Murray serving and trailing 3-2 in the third. It was chock-full: 10 deuces, six break points for Federer, three falls to the turf by Murray, all spread over roughly 20 gloriously intense minutes.

Murray went up 40-love, then began to crack as Federer walloped two backhand returns to 40-30. On the next point, Federer conjured up another beautiful drop shot and Murray tumbled head-over-heels while giving chase; both Federer and the chair umpire went over to check on him. A few points later, Murray did a somersault at the baseline when he slipped going after a lob. And on it went. At the 10th deuce, Federer sent another lob over Murray, who hit the deck yet again, but got up in time to see the ball plop on the baseline. This set up Federer's sixth break point, the last he would need - in the game and the set, certainly, but also in the match and the tournament, it seemed.

He converted it with an inside-out forehand that landed in a corner, and Murray could only push his reply into the net.

There would be no more shifts of control, no reasons for Federer to doubt—or for Murray and his legion of backers to believe.

The final break for Federer made it 3-2 in the fourth, when he flicked a cross-court backhand passing winner that was powerful and perfect. Federer made a rare show of strong emotion, shaking his right fist and bellowing. That, essentially, was that, no matter how many times the fans were going to sing their choruses of "An-dy! An-dy!" and "Mur-ray! Mur-ray!"

Federer only needed to hold serve three more times, and he did, then crumbled to the court when Murray sailed one last forehand wide.

"This is, I guess, how you want to win Wimbledon—by going after your shots, believing you can do it," Federer said, "and that's what I was able to do today."

He most definitely is back to being the best at what he does.

Federer turns 31 on Aug. 8, and is the first thirtysomething man to win Wimbledon since Arthur Ashe in 1975.

No matter. He and Sampras—and, by now, plenty of others—see no reason why Federer can't keep adding to all of his records.

"I'm so happy I'm at the age I am right now, because I had such a great run and I know there's still more possible. To enjoy it right now, it's very different than when I was 20 or 25," said Federer, whose twin daughters, wearing matching black-and-white dresses and frilly socks, applauded from his guest box during the trophy ceremony.

"I'm at a much more stable place in my life. I wouldn't want anything to change," he added. "So this is very, very special right now."

SENIOR

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Host team Guam, the Philippines, Thailand, Indonesia, and China (1-4) make up the rest of the field.

New Zealand managed an early run in the opening frame from Kelloa Wehal and an error, but the CNMI buckled down on defense through the thick of the match.

The match was a pitching duel between New Zealand ace Jerome Ritchie and the CNMI's A.J. Lizama.

Ritchie got out of a jam in the bottom frame and left the CNMI with two men stranded, but Lizama notched his fifth strikeout in the top half of the second inning. Ritchie answered with a 1-2-3 inning in the bottom side

Lizama echoed his call in the top of the third, after which Ritchie and his crew held strong against the CNMI's top of the lineup.

Both teams executed impressively both on the mound and out in the field as hits came at a premium in the standoff, but New Zealand grinded out its second run in the fifth inning thanks to a leadoff double to leftfield by Ham Witters. He was driven to the plate by Sam Clerk.

New Zealand's Ritchie stuffed the CNMI's top of the order again in the sixth inning and held them to just one run in the final stand.

Jun Rabauliman ripped a single to left and stole two bases before scoring off an error, and Frankie Camacho made it all the way to third base, but the guys could not get the tying run to the plate.

Cedric Ada and Khobby Kaipat managed to put the ball in play, but were gobbled up by New Zealand's infield.

Winning pitcher Ritchie went the distance and gave up one unearned run off seven hits with two strikeouts. He issued zero walks and canned nine put outs.

The CNMI's Lizama gave up an earned run off six hits, a walk, hit two batsmen along with nine strikeouts through seven frames.

CNMI leadoff batter Lancaster Secharmidal batted 3-for-3 and made it to third base in the first inning, but was caught in the path twice in the game.

The CNMI Big Leaguers, meanwhile, are also in the U.S. territory and took on achrival Guam in another must-win match to force a three-way tie in the division standings. The Philippines (2-2) is in third place in the three-team field.

The Philippines defeated Guam (2-1), 7-4, yesterday, while the CNMI (1-2) was on a bye.

In event of a tie, the team with the lowest runs allowed average will be declared the winner. The CNMI therefore needs to keep the score low as the total runs allowed of each team gets divided by the total number of defensive innings.

The results of yesterday's Big League regional tournament will be released tomorrow.

CNMI

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Games in New Caledonia.

The 17-year-old sprinter went on to advance to the finals of the U20 200m race where she reset her PBT after clocking in at 26.45 seconds—the seventh fastest among 13 qualifiers.

Mancao ran in a longer race—the 800m—where he recorded a PBT of 2:07:10. According to Robin Sapong, who also attended the June 27 to 29 tournament as one of the meet directors, Mancao's mark is the unofficial CNMI junior record and the fastest in 14 years since Sapong himself complete an 800m race at 2:06.50 in 1998.

Mancao also run in the 400m event and submitted 57.43 seconds, more than two seconds slower than teammate Ngirchongor, who had a PBT with his 55.05 seconds.

Rangamar was the CNMI's lone entry in field events and set a new PB and CNMI records in the javelin throw after posting 35.31 meters. She went on to win the bronze medal in the event.

Rangamar's 35.31m eclipsed the 35.17m she also made during the 2011 edition of the championships in Apia, Samoa. Her 2011 mark shattered the 29-year-old CNMI national record of Emiliana Quitugua, who listed 34.68m in the first Pacific Mini Games in Honiara, Solomon Islands in 1981.

The 18-year-old athlete also joined the 4x100m relay, teaming up with Abrams, Yvonne Bennett, and Reylynn Sapong and the quartet won a bronze medal after timing in at 53.79 seconds.

Meanwhile, Abrams stayed in Australia for one more week after the championship to, participate in a junior camp in Brisbane. She then left the Land Down Under last Saturday to travel to Barcelona, Spain for the 2012 IAFF World Junior Championships that will run from July 10 to 15.

MOBIL

From Page 28

least 10 feeds.

Demapan, on the other hand, had a game-high 24 markers and was the recipient of the drive-and-draw plays of Estolas. The Mobil forward also hit a couple of pull-up jumpers and collared rebounds, making life harder for NVM defenders.

NVM, which is bannered by former members of the CNMI National Team, kept up with Mobil only in the first quarter, as the former had troubles finding the right combination on the floor. NVM also did not challenge most of Mobil's shots and since the former concentrated on stopping Estolas, it forgot the latter's other players, who were left wide open either at the baseline or outside.

Big men Jorge De Guzman and Gyles Ruluked earned most of their baskets from the baseline. Sahj Hossain, Angelo Fernando, Brian Ajoste, and Jason Bahillo also contributed at least 5 points each, as Mobil coach Marvin Deocares did a great job in rotating his players.

Mobil led by only 4 after the first period, 20-16, but began pulling away in the second canto when it held NVM to only three field goals in the first six minutes of that quarter en route to a 47-37 halftime advantage.

The lead ballooned to 18 after the third, 70-52, as Demapan, who finished with 12 points in the first half, added 9 more at the start of the second half and Hossain came off the bench and chipped in 6.

NVM sliced the deficit to as low as 14 early in the fourth, 60-74, but Mobil made back-to-back layups to stop the mini rally en route to the easy victory.

Meanwhile, in the first game, DLX limited the Hip Hop Thunder to 4 points in the third quarter to seize control of the match and earn the third semis ticket.

The Thunder was catching up with DLX, down by only four at the break, 32-36, when it rained and the game took about 30 minutes to resume. The lull halted Hip Hop Thunder's momentum, while DLX got the needed breather to spark its third-quarter breakaway.

DLX drained 20 points at the resumption of the match with Leo Galarse and Elmer Esdrelon firing 7 markers each in the rally to lift their team to a big 56-36 lead. Only Raymark Castro and Gino Libuw scored for the Thunder in the third period.

Ivan Devero, who was held to 4 points in the first three quarters, nailed the Thunder's first 6 points, but it was not enough to bring their team back in the game, as DLX hung tough in the finale.

Devero was the only double figure scorer for DLX with his 10 markers. Jomary Tumaquip, who had 18 points in their playoff win over Saipan Hardware, was limited to a deuce.

Junar Guiab had 16 for DLX, which plays Mobil in the second semis game this Thursday at 8pm. In the first Final Four pairing at 6:30pm, Ashley's faces QQ Rent A Car.

First Game

DLX 71 – Guiab 16, Esdrelon 14, David 10, Galarse 9, Barbo 8, Pineda 4, Trajano 3, Fernandez 3, Abedes 2.

Hip Hop Thunder 47 – I. Devero 10, Sacramento 9, C. Devero 6, Castro 6, Libuw 5, D Mateo 5, Omnez 2, Durant 2, Tumaquip 2.

Scoring by quarters: 18-13, 36-32, 56-36, 71-47.

Second Game

Mobil 88 – Demapan 24, Estolas 17, Hossain 11, Ruluked 9, De Guzman 8, Fernando 7, Ajoste 5, Bahillo 5.

NVM 73 – Cadiang 18, Barcinas 14, Joyner 13, Mendiola 10, Basa 7, Je. Mina 5, Manibusan 5, Ritual 2.

Scoring by quarters: 20-16, 47-37, 70-52, 88-73.

Angels shut out D-9ers in SML, 15-0

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The St. Michael Angels' Franco Flores waits for a pitch during the top of the second inning of their game against the D-9ers in the SML last Thursday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The St. Michael Angels capitalized on an error-prone D-9ers to coast to a 15-0 shutout win at the resumption of play in the 2012 Saipan Major League last Thursday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

The Angels now hold a 5-3 record for a tie for second place with the Aces, while the D-9ers remained winless in seven games in the seven-team league. The Northern Yankees and the Tan Holdings Brewers are in a deadlock for the lead with their similar 6-1 slates, while the IP&E Shell Fielders (3-5) and Masters (1-6) complete the field.

The Angels scored 12 of their 13 runs off the D-9ers throwing and fielding miscues to win the first match played this month after the league took a break for about two weeks.

Both teams showed rust early on after a two-week absence, as neither squad managed to score a single run.

The Angels then broke their silence with a four-run top of the third. Three runs were made off errors, while the fourth was courtesy of an RBI double from John Reyes. Another four-run top of the fourth upped the Angels lead to 8-0. Reyes knocked another RBI double, which Niko Martin duplicated, while the two others were posted off errors.

The D-9ers continued to struggle on defense, as the Angels last seven runs were made off the former's miscues.

On offense, the D-9ers had its best chance to score at the bottom of the second inning when E.J. Tenorio reached third base. Actually, the D-9ers had runners on corners with two outs, but they were left stranded as Angels starting pitcher Peter Tenorio struck out Ton Castro.

The D-9ers loaded the bases anew at the bottom of the sixth with two outs, but again the Angels held their ground on defense with second baseman Nick Cruz catching a fly ball from Isaiah Lizama.

In the last inning, the D-9ers' chances of extending the game were doomed when they went 1-2-3. Leadoff batter Ben Lizama was tagged out at first and Lawrence Dikito and Chad Atalig flied out.

SIP/Barney's makes Final Four

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Samahang Ilokano at Pangasinense/Barney's completed the Final Four cast in the U20 division of the 2012 UFO Docomo Pacific Cup after routing Hi-Five/POWER, 83-68, last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

SIP/Barney's recovered from a slow start to eliminate Hi-Five/POWER and earn a semis duel with the second-ranked MDX/Mariana Resort tonight at 8pm. Top-ranked and undefeated DYS/Bayani will collided against AON in the other semis pairing at 6:30pm. AON had a free semis pass after winning via forfeit versus DeMolay in the first game last Saturday.

With only five players—John Darag, Mike Moran, Ken Orejola, Erick Dela Rosa, and Rodney Sacramento—showing up at the start of the game, SIP/Barney's fell behind after the first period, 11-16. Hi-Five's Franklin Macahito almost outscored SIP/Barney's first five, firing 9 points to put his team on top.

After sizzling in the opening canto, Macahito went cold in the second, as he was held to only one field goal, while SIP/Barney's picked up the scoring. The Mico Moran-coached squad outgunned Hi-Five in the second canto, 22-11, to grab the driver's seat at the break, 33-27. Herbert Maranan joined SIP/Barney's in the second canto and chipped in 4, while four of the five starters also scored for their 6-point halftime advantage.

Maranan continued to make up for his first quarter absence, nailing 6 of SIP/Barney's first 10 points in the third quarter. Sacramento and Dela Rosa then combined for 18 of their last 22 points to erect a double-digit lead, 62-52, entering the final canto. Ken Orejola and Mike Moran scored the 4 other points off free throws.

John Darag, who had only one field goal and a free throw in the third after drilling 11 points in the first half, ran the show for SIP/Barney's in the fourth quarter. He started the final frame with a triple and had two more treys and tallied 12 markers in the fourth quarter alone to lift SIP/Barney's to an easy win. Darag led all scorers with his 26 markers.

Sacramento added 19, Dela Rosa chipped in 14, and Maranan was one point short of posting double figures with his 9 markers.

Donald Hockett paced Hi-Five with his 18 points, but made half of them when the game was already decided in the fourth period. He had only one field goal in the first half when SIP took control of the match. Macahito, the second top scorer for Hi-Five with his 13 points, struggled in the last three quarters, as he was held to one field goal each in the second and third period and was scoreless in the final canto. Edward Manibusan also finished with 13 markers.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

SIP/Barney's Erick Dela Rosa pulls up for a shot against two AON/Boholano defenders during a regular season game in the U20 division of the UFO Docomo Pacific Cup at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. SIP and AON are now in the semis, joining DYS/Bayani and MDX/Mariana Resort.

SIP/Barney's 83 – Darag 26, Sacramento 19, Dela Rosa 14, Maranan 9, Moran 8, Orejola 2.

Hi-Five/POWER 68 – Hockett 18, F. Macahito 13, Manibusan 13, Urbano 12, Aldan 6, Cristobal 4, Atalig 2.

Scoring by quarters: 11-16, 33-27, 63-52, 83-68.

Hocog wins in 10-ball tourney

Victor S. Hocog won the First 10-Ball Tournament held last June 30 at Joe's Bar in Garapan.

Hocog defeated Fred Robiego in the finals to win the second week of the 10-ball competition.

After getting a bye in the first round, he took out Luis Fajardo, 2-0, before arranging the finals tiff against Robiego following a 2-0 win over Chester Hamoy.

Robiego, meanwhile, nipped Joey Cruz, 2-1, in the opening round. He then defeated Eugene Borja and Lito Escaleri with the same 2-1 score in the second and third round, respectively, to advance to the championship round against Hocog.

In the finals, Hocog drew first blood when Robiego missed on the final ball.

Robiego, however, rebounded nicely in the second game when Hocog fouled on the 8-ball.

Having a two ball handicap over Hocog and with ball in hand, Robiego only had to pocket the 8-ball to win and he did to force a third and deciding game.

Unfortunately for Robiego, he couldn't build on his momentum in the do-or-die final match. He missed on the 5-ball that allowed Hocog to make a clean sweep of the remaining balls to take the championship and a week's worth of bragging rights.

Hocog earned $60 for the win as well as took home a case of Miller Lite and T-shirt. Robiego, for his part, settled for the $30 runner-up purse plus a case of Miller Lite. Escaleri, who beat Hamoy in the battle for third, got $20 and a Miller Lite six-pack.

Aside from the Top 4, also joining in the second week of the 10-ball challenge were Fajardo, Cruz, Borja, Mark Brian Nelvis, Jerry Soriano, Greg Guerrero, and Rico Montano.

The double-elimination 10-ball tournament is held every Saturday starting 9pm with sign-up an hour earlier.

Aside from the Billiards Congress of America rules, a handicap system based on the shooting skill of the player is used. Entrance fee is $10. Joe's Bar is located in front of Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

For more information or to reserve your seat for the tournament, call 233-5367.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

First 10-Ball Tournament champion Victor S. Hocog is flanked by runners-up Fred Robiego, right, and Lito Escaleri after the June 30 tournament at Joe's Bar in Garapan.

Saipan Int'l Fishing Tournament set July 14-15

The 28th Annual Saipan International Fishing Tournament will be held on July 14-15 in CNMI waters.

Participants must register on Friday, July 13, from 5pm to 6:30pm at Smiling Cove Marina in Garapan.

Registration is $150 per boat, including one captain and one crewmember. Each additional crewmember is $25.

Boaters are reminded to have their boats inspected by the Department of Public Safety Boating Safety office this week.

Appointments may be made by calling the Boating Safety office at 664-9180/1/2. All boats must have a full inspection to participate.

Launching will be from 6am to 8am both days at Smiling Cove Marina, Sugar Dock in Chalan Kanoa, and Garapan Fishing Base.

All boats launching after 8am need to check out at Smiling Cove Marina. Participants wishing to register their catch must be inside the Smiling Cove Mariana channel by 6pm both days.

Tournament fee also includes entrance to the awards banquet.

For more information or a registration form and rules, contact Frank Tudela of the Marianas Visitors Authority at ftudela@mymarianas.com or 664-3210. ***(MVA)***

Pirates stay hot, beat Giants, 13-2

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Ted Potter Jr. wins Greenbrier Classic in playoff

PAGE 24

Federer wins 7th Wimbledon, 17th major

By HOWARD FENDRICH
AP TENNIS WRITER

WIMBLEDON, England (AP)—A Grand Slam title drought did indeed end in Sunday's historic and riveting Wimbledon final, only it was Roger Federer's lengthy-for-him gap between trophies that came to a close, rather than Britain's 76-year wait for a homegrown men's champion.

Making sure everyone knows he is still as capable as ever of brilliance on a tennis court—particularly one made of grass, and with a roof overhead—Federer came back to beat Andy Murray 4-6, 7-5, 6-3, 6-4 indoors on Centre Court for a record-tying seventh championship at the All England Club.

"It feels nice," Federer said, clutching the gold trophy only Pete Sampras has held as many times in the modern era. "It's like it never left me."

The victory also increased Federer's record total to 17 major titles after being stuck on No. 16 for 2 1/2 years, and clinched a return to the top of the ATP rankings, overtaking Novak Djokovic, after an absence of a little more than two years. Federer's 286th week at No. 1 ties Sampras for the most in history.

"He doesn't want to stop now. He knows

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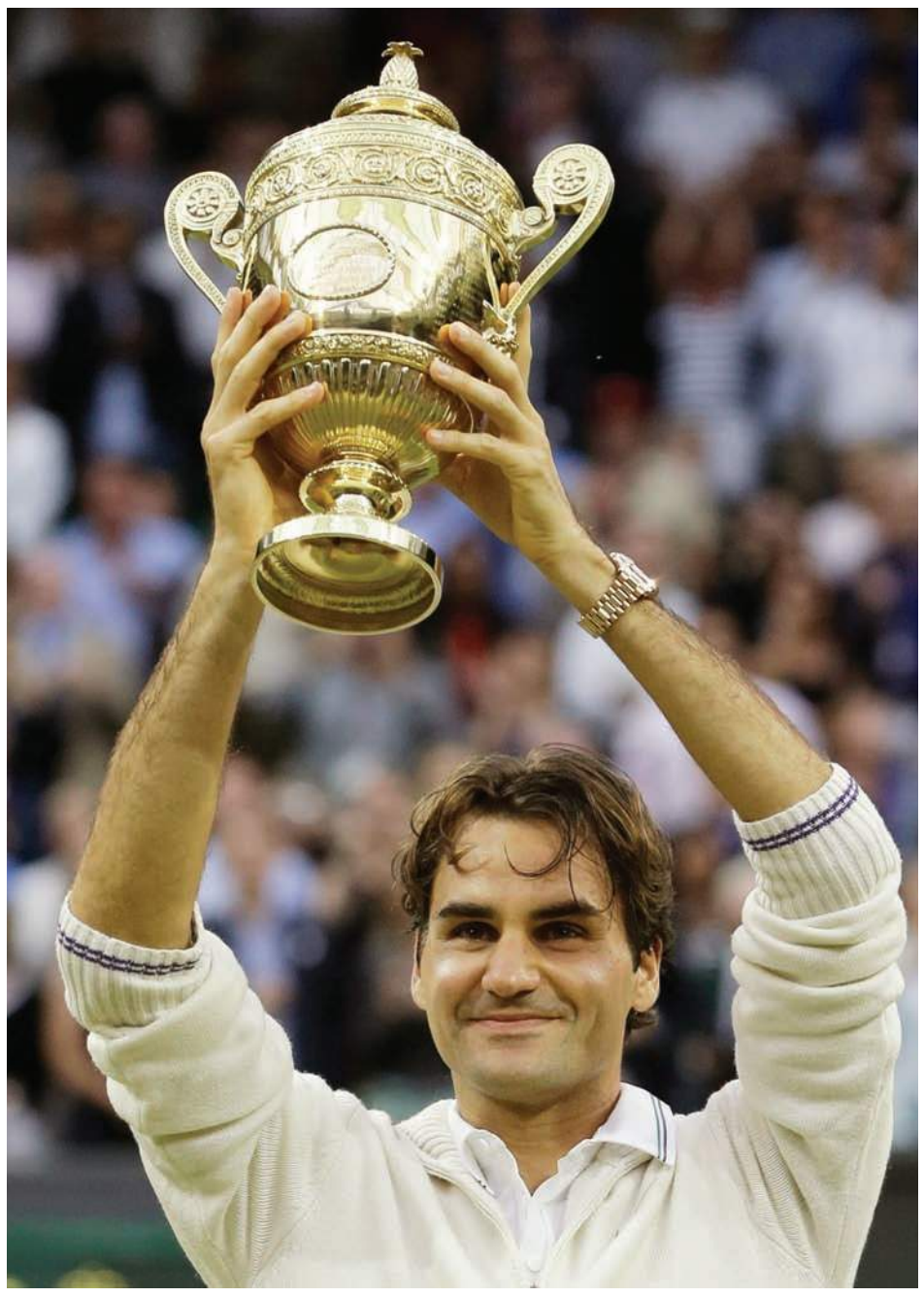

AP

Roger Federer of Switzerland poses with the trophy after winning the men's singles final against Andy Murray of Britain at the All England Lawn Tennis Championships at Wimbledon, England, Sunday, July 8, 2012.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Mobil's Jun Estolas drives baseline and draws a foul on NVM's Mel Manibusan during the first quarter of their playoff game in the Blue Haus caging last Sunday at the Garapan Basketball Court.

Mobil, DLX cruise into semis

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Jun Estolas and Bart Demapan played stellar games to power Mobil to an easy 88-75 playoff win over NVM in the 2012 Blue Haus Invitational League last Sunday night at the Garapan Basketball Court.

The win allowed Mobil to set a semis date against DLX, which crushed Hip Hop Thunder, 71-47, in their rain-delayed playoff tiff in the first game, also last Sunday.

Estolas showed no respect for NVM's defense, as he dribbled his way out of trouble and either made tough shots or dished it out to open teammates for several baskets in the paint. Estolas, who was hounded by youthful Melvin Cadiang in the first three quarters before Jawn Joyner took over from the latter midway in the fourth, finished with 17 points. No official statistics on assists were recorded in the match, but Estolas made at

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CNMI athletes set personal best records

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Beo Ngirchongor, seen here competing in a local race, joined the 400m run in the Oceania championships in Australia last month and set a personal best time (55.05 seconds).

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Four members of the seven-man CNMI Athletics Team posted personal best records in last month's Oceania Regional Championships 2012 at the Barlow Park in Cairns, Australia.

The list includes Rachel Abrams, Michael Mancao, Beo Ngirchongor, and Lia Rangamar.

Abrams crushed her personal best in the 200m run twice, doing it first during the qualifying heat when she timed in at 27.20 seconds. Her previous PBT was 27.46 seconds logged during the 2011 Pacific

See CNMI on Page 26

CNMI Senior All-Stars fall in ASPAC

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

The CNMI Big League All-Stars tip their hats to the crowd after defeating the Philippines, 3-2, in Sunday's 2012 Senior League Asia-Pacific Regional Tournament at the Paseo Stadium in Hagatna, Guam.

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

HAGATNA, Guam—The CNMI Senior All-Stars fell short in its must-win match against eventual champion New Zealand, 2-1, as the 2012 Senior League Asia-Pacific Regional Tournament concluded yesterday at the Paseo Stadium.

New Zealand absorbed its lone loss to host Guam last Saturday, but won its other four games to finish the round of pool play with the best record.

The Kiwis advanced to the Senior League Baseball World Series this August in Bangor, Maine as the Asia-Pacific Regional Tournament champions. The CNMI finished with a win-loss record of 3-2.

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